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FALKLANDS CRISIS



Faces of conflict (left to right): Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister; military cooks receiving weapons training on board HMS Canberra; Royal Marines repatriated by the invaders but now on their way back to the Falklands; Miss Cindy Buxton, one of the two British film-makers still on South Georgia.

Costa Méndez says it is technically war

From Nicholas Ashford, Washington, April 25

Señor Nicanor Costa Méndez, the Argentine Foreign Minister, arrived here today for talks on the Falklands crisis with Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State. He is expected to attend tomorrow's special meeting of the Organization of American States (OAS) which will consider possible measures against Britain under the 1947 Rio Treaty on collective defence.

The British attack on an Argentine submarine and the landing on South Georgia have greatly increased the importance of tomorrow's meeting, which will be attended by representatives of the 21 signatories of the Rio Treaty, including the United States. The Argentines have already made the point that South Georgia falls within the geographic area covered by the treaty.

There was speculation here today that the incidents may persuade Argentina to call for a tough action against Britain, possibly even asking other signatories to provide Argentina with military assistance.

Señor Costa Méndez underlined how seriously he considered the situation when he told reporters on his arrival in New York that Argentina was now technically in a state of war with Britain.

Earlier it had been expected that Señor Costa Méndez would attempt to invoke only Article 6 of the treaty, branding Britain as an aggressor. However, it was now thought possible that Argentina might try to invoke Article 3, which calls for armed assistance from all signatories.

Whatever steps Argentina takes will be opposed by the United States, which is trying to mediate between Britain and Argentina and hopes to defuse the situation before the shooting gets worse.

During last week's meeting of the Organization of American States which decided to convene tomorrow's special session, the United States made it clear that it considered any action under the Rio Treaty inappropriate so long as negotiations continued.

The United States is one of three countries that abstained when the organization voted last Wednesday to hold tomorrow's meeting. It is uncertain whether Argentina can expect to gain the same degree of support as it received last week if it calls for collective action against Britain. Several countries have made it clear that they would scrutinize very carefully any Argentine request for assistance. Some are likely to point to the section in the Rio Treaty which states that signatories should not take any action which runs contrary to the decisions taken by the United Nations.

Argentina is in breach of Security Council Resolution 502 which calls on it to withdraw its forces from the Falklands.

Tomorrow's meeting of the Organization of American States was expected to be the main topic on the agenda at this evening's meeting between Señor Costa Méndez and Mr Haig. Mr Haig was also expected to inform the Argentine Foreign Minister of the outcome of his talks last week with Mr Francis Pym, the Foreign Secretary.

Mr Pym took some American ideas for a settlement with him back to London on Friday night. However, he made it clear to Mr Haig before he departed that these ideas left a great deal to be desired, although they did provide the basis for negotiations to continue.

According to American sources, Mr Haig was left with a clear impression that the British intended to use force within the next few days. However, Mr Pym also made it clear to him that Britain still wanted Mr Haig to continue his diplomatic efforts even after the shooting began.

According to the sources the British told Mr Haig that an outbreak of fighting in the South Atlantic might persuade Argentina to soften its negotiating position and also lead to new moves in the Security Council.

The sources say there are two major obstacles in the

negotiations: Argentine insistence on its sovereignty over the islands being guaranteed and Britain's determination to uphold the islanders' right to self-determination.

According to a front page report in *The New York Times* today, high-ranking American officials have indicated that the United States will back Britain against Argentina if negotiations fail. The support would include America joining an embargo on Argentine goods, but not the use of American forces.

However, Mr John Tower, chairman of the powerful Senate Armed Services Committee, today urged the Reagan Administration to send naval units to support the Royal Navy task force in the South Atlantic.

In a television interview today Sir Nicholas Henderson, the British Ambassador, said he was confident of American backing although he did not say what form that backing would take.

New York: Señor Costa Méndez arrived here expressing hope for a diplomatic solution (UPI reports). He said he had no immediate reports on damage to the attacked Argentine submarine but when asked if the fact that shots were fired would end the effort for a diplomatic settlement, he replied: "There is never an end to diplomacy."

A State Department spokesman said the incident is further confirmation of the gravity of the situation and demonstrated anew the urgency of a diplomatic solution. The United States remains committed to that objective and we will continue our ongoing efforts.

In an interview on board his aircraft before the submarine attack, Señor Méndez said he was hopeful about the Organization of American States meeting. "I believe Washington is going to be a demonstration of Latin American solidarity, and I believe that solidarity is one of the most certain ways to peace," he said, speaking in Spanish.

The statement issued by the Ministry of Defence pointed to the "additional measures" which it threatened more than two weeks ago when announcing a maritime exclusion zone around the Falklands.

The statement said: "In this connection Her Majesty's Government wishes to make clear that any approach on the part of Argentine warships including submarines, naval auxiliaries or military aircraft which could amount to a threat to interfere with the mission of British forces in the South Atlantic will encounter the appropriate response."

Rear Admiral John Woodward, the task force commander, was said to have been taking "appropriate action" in the incident involving the Argentine submarine at Grytviken, although later events suggested that this was part of a far wider plan.

It had been assumed for some time that Admiral Woodward would try to operate an exclusion zone above the maritime exclusion zone, as soon as surface warships, capable of forcing entry, entered Falkland waters.

In the event this has not been created but the task force is operating a defensive "bubble" moving gradually westwards with the ships.

Surveillance of the force would still be possible by Soviet satellites, but these are not overhead all the time. Observation of the "defensive area" will be enforced by the Sea Harrier aircraft on board HMS Hermes and Invincible and the Sea Dart and Sea Slug missiles on the Type 42 and County Class destroyers respectively.

But weather in the area, including mountainous waves, could make Harrier operations impossible because of the effect on the carrier decks. But the fact that the defensive defence area was declared yesterday, some 36 hours after the warning was actually given to Argentina, must reflect Admiral Woodward's confidence in his ability to maintain it.

One question now is whether the force will extend the "defensive area" to cover the air space over the Falklands themselves when the ships with their accompanying aircraft have moved into a position in Falkland waters from which they could maintain such a threat.

"They must be scared to death by now"

'Defensive area' around fleet

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

PA RUSH
1 Falklands
with helicopters today attacked Argentine submarine near South Georgia, said defence ministry.
-- 1234 25/4 PM MM

PA FLASH
British forces now on South Georgia - Ministry of Defence.

The spark: How the news broke yesterday on the Press Association tape.

Sea King crewman lost in sea

From John Witherow on board HMS Invincible April 25

The death of a crewman on board a Sea King helicopter in the South Atlantic has cast a shadow across the mission of the Royal Navy task force as it steams into increasingly severe weather conditions closer to the Falkland Islands.

It has also highlighted the efficiency and bravery of the men involved in the rescue operation, who for hours hovered only feet above the waves on a pitch-black night of heavy rain and lightning, to winch out the pilot and search for the missing man.

A helicopter from HMS Invincible was first on the scene on Friday night, hovering at less than 50 feet, and using its search and landing lights. It found only wreckage at first but after 20 minutes it discovered a dinghy containing the pilot.

Leading aircraftman Thomas Arnall, aged 24, was the winchman who was lowered into the heavy swell to grab the pilot, who had managed to escape from the sinking helicopter. They took him to HMS Hermes, where the helicopter was based, then returned to continue the search which carried on throughout the night and the next day, and involved several ships and helicopters.

It was the first time that leading aircraftman Arnall had been involved in an air-sea rescue, but he read his notes in a matter-of-fact way, and described the incident as "like a speedway training sortie". He was dropped 20 or 30 yards from the survivor and trailed towards him.

"On the third attempt, the pilot grabbed my wrist, pulling us up together. He was sitting in the life-raft with no helmet. I asked him if he was OK and he said 'yes' and I said 'good man'. He then asked me did I see the tail section. He said he had tried to get inside it. He knew his crewman had been in the back", he said.

Sub-lieutenant Christopher Howarth, aged 28, who piloted the rescue helicopter, with the aid of Prince Andrew, also a sub-lieutenant, added: "We were told to get airborne and home in on the beacon. We searched around until we spotted him in the water. He was about four or five miles away."

"We could see one of the flotation bags from the undercarriage. I don't know why the aircraft had gone down. There was moonlight to help us at all. It was pitch black."

"The pilot had grazed on his face and hand, and he was limping but he was coherent. We asked him how many had been in the aircraft. He said he last saw the crewman just before they impacted and had not seen him since. He had come forward to help the pilot."

Lieutenant Commander Ralph Wykes-Saunders, in charge of HMS Invincible's 820 Squadron, said such accidents had become increasingly rare in the Royal Navy Fleet Air Arm in the past 20 years, although last year two helicopters from the Invincible collided off the Isle of Wight, killing five.

Spy charge: Journalists face trial

From Our Own Correspondent Buenos Aires, April 25

An Argentine federal judge has ruled that three British journalists must face trial on charges of spying.

Judge Carlos Sagastume said he did not think they were habitual spies but, given the situation, it was possible that they had acted from patriotic motives or explicit instructions. Material in their possession could, in the opinion of the military, damage the interests of the state if it were put in the hands of a hostile power.

Mr Simon Winchester of *The Sunday Times*, Mr Ian Mather of *The Observer* and Mr Anthony Prime, a photographer for *The Observer*, were arrested last Tuesday week while sitting in the coffee shop at the airport in Rio Grande, Tierra del Fuego. They had flown in from Ushuaia in the extreme south of the country and were awaiting their aircraft to Buenos Aires.

They were taken in custody to Buenos Aires and interrogated. After a few days they were returned to Ushuaia and last week were questioned by Judge Sagastume in preliminary hearings to decide whether there was a prima facie case against them.

They are now being allowed to receive telephone calls and the authorities seem to be going out of their way to ensure that they are well treated. They are being provided with English language books, and are receiving legal representation. Representatives of both newspapers are in the town.

The Pope's plea: Pray for peace

From John Earle Rome, April 25

Pope John Paul today expressed alarm at the prospect of fighting between Britain and Argentina, and made a call for prayer for a peaceful solution to the Falklands dispute.

In an address to pilgrims in St Peter's Square from the window of the Vatican, he recalled that he had appealed repeatedly in recent days for a peaceful solution.

He asked Catholics throughout the world, and particularly in Argentina and Britain, to join in prayer "that the Lord may inspire the responsible rulers with decision and courage to seek, in this perhaps decisive hour, the paths of understanding, with wisdom and magnanimity, that irreparable good of their peoples and for the tranquillity of the American continent."

Opinion poll: 79% support

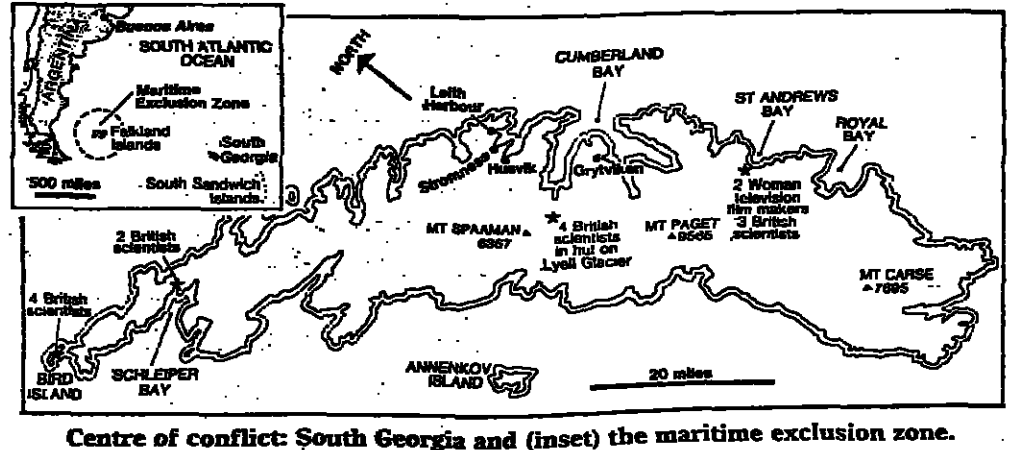
By Our Foreign Staff

The British public continues to support overwhelmingly the Government's policy of negotiating from a position of strength over the Falklands dispute.

According to a public opinion survey carried out by Opinion Research for Independent Television's *Weekend World* programme, support for the government's Falklands policy was running at 79 per cent last week. Eleven per cent of those interviewed were opposed to the way the Government was handling the crisis and a further 10 per cent were undecided.

Support for putting the lives of British servicemen at risk during the crisis was, however, only lukewarm. A full 52 per cent of the survey believed that servicemen's lives should not be jeopardized, compared with 41 per cent who thought they should. The remaining 7 per cent were undecided.

This second finding must cause concern for Mrs Thatcher and her colleagues, particularly now that the first shots have been fired between Britain and Argentina.



Centre of conflict: South Georgia and (inset) the maritime exclusion zone.

Echo of peaceful days 'Penguin News' avoids a flap

From Christopher Thomas, Buenos Aires

The *Penguin News* journal of the Falkland Islands, had much more than its usual fare in its last issue. There was also the grievous matter of the road accident.

While the Argentines were mustering their Army the paper reported sadly that a Land-Rover and a Hillman Imp had collided in Port Stanley, inflicting possible irreparable damage to the latter vehicle.

The newspaper, consisting of 15 stencilled and stapled pages is a classic of its kind, reflecting a way of life that has nothing to do with the world beyond. A few copies of issue number 19, the last before the invasion, have just arrived in Buenos Aires and are already collectors' items.

The paper carried extensive reports on the "invasion" of South Georgia by the Argentine scrap metal merchants but as for the prospects of an invasion of the Falklands it admitted humbly that "we still know very little". Seven days after publication the Argentines landed.

But it was better informed on the road accident, an occurrence that is rare indeed in Port Stanley, which involved 12 miles of made-up roads. Those who know the place say it is difficult to find anything to have an accident with, and indeed the *Penguin News* said that traffic "is fairly peaceful". Happily, it reported, nobody was injured.

The paper also reported the rather remarkable news that 11 Polish seamen had decided to settle in Stanley rather than go home to a dictatorship. "Some of the seamen have been quite daring. One young man shinned down a rope into the customs launch below. Others have simply wandered away from a recreation group ashore for an afternoon."

But alas, an Englishman sent to the town's jail for three months deprived the Poles of their home. Until the Englishman arrived they were sleeping in the prison but they had to move to the annex of St Mary's church.

On a less international note, the paper reported a good turnout for the annual vegetable show and an announcement that the Stanley soccer side achieved a "splendid" 5-0 victory over the Royal Marines.

And it revealed the juicy gossip that a school teacher, who was named, had fallen out with the superintendent of Education and got the sack.

And right at the end of the paper, in the editorial column, it said the Argentinians must not be allowed to show over the invasion of South Georgia. "RMS Endeavour, which is at last being provided with a chance to prove her worth, must ensure that the Argentines at Leith Harbour are deported from the Falklands Dependency."

If issue number 20 of the *Penguin News* ever appears, it should be an extremely interesting read.

Nott accused of gagging MPs

An MP who is demanding to know why Britain supplied military spares to Argentina as late as March 22, claimed today that he had been forbidden to raise the issue in the House of Commons.

Mr Douglas Hoyle, Labour MP for Warrington, said he had had to resort to the "very much second best" of writing instead to Mr John Nott, the Defence Secretary. He claimed Mr Nott had "blacklisted" Commons questions on the subject.

Mr Hoyle added that a query had been raised by Ministry of Defence officials when the priority order for spares for Argentina was placed but that it was ignored.

Sanctions will be slow to bite

By Rupert Morris

Trade sanctions against Argentina imposed by Britain and the European Community are causing long-term anxiety for British companies but are not expected to have any significant effect for several weeks.

The problem for Argentina could be much more serious as more than a quarter of its exports come to Europe. West Germany is the biggest European importer, taking 6.9 per cent of Argentina's goods, with The Netherlands taking 6.3 per cent and Italy 5.6 per cent. Italian shoes and leather goods would suffer from any prolongation of the ban, as most hides come from Argentina.

Britain (2.9 per cent) and France (2.7) are the only other countries to import significant quantities from Argentina.

The Blue Star Line, a subsidiary of the Vestey Organization, which normally carries 1,300 tons of meat from South America to Britain every three weeks, has been able to make up Argentina's usual quota by taking more from Brazil. Blue Star is doubtful, however, whether Brazil can continue to make up the deficiency.

Southbound cargoes to Argentina have declined over the past few years. Britain's exports to Argentina are so diverse, and so insignificant in industry terms that it is hard to quantify the effect of the Argentina ban as yet. The main exports are industrial machinery, but at less than £50m a year these do not involve any important projects.

The potentially far more significant EEC ban is of primarily symbolic value for the moment. Its practical effect will be clearer on May 17, when the EEC will review its position in the light of developments. All member states have ratified the EEC's decision.

Customs and excise departments are understood to be monitoring the ban and have not yet impounded any goods for breaches.

The Times Profile: the Duke of Edinburgh, by Philip Howard

Duke of all trades, master of most



On philosopher kings

'It is a naive appreciation of human nature to imagine that such processed paragons can be invested with the necessary powers and not be tempted to take advantage'

The Palace is a stage, and all the royals merely players, doing a good job representing the dignified and formal parts of the British Constitution. And of them all the Duke of Edinburgh plays the most parts: sailor, pilot, wild life expert, spokesman for the conservation industry and at the same time an extraordinary liquidator of pheasants, Admiral, Air Marshal, Colonel in Chief, youth leader, businessman, manqué, bristling moralist of the after-dinner speech, national pepper-up, handsome escort to an extraordinary procession of Presidents' wives. A man so various that he seems to be not one, but all the royal game's epitome.

Next month he takes on a new role as intellectual by publishing a book of his beliefs about life and truth, and all that. It marks a transition. Suddenly we realise that the Duke we have known and loved and grown up with is in danger of becoming an elder statesman.

The familiar image of the tall man in a naval uniform, always a pace behind the Queen with his hands clasped behind his back at ease, alert, smiling, and ready to chat up anything that moves, is fading out of date. His sons are as tall as he is, and more glamorous to the glamour-struck generation. He is a father-in-law, and increasingly a grandfather.

Exit the sailor prince; enter the philosopher king of the tribe. It is an axiom of monarchy that the magic of a monarch becomes more potent as she or he grows older, because fewer and fewer of her subjects have known anybody else as their mascot head of state. The same process may well work with consort.

The old image of the Duke as dashing and glamorous partner to our Queen was formed in those days of star-eyed royalty-workship just after the war. I sat on the same platform as him four

On Christ

'He might be described as an underprivileged, colonial, working-class victim of political and religious persecution'

days before his engagement was announced. The occasion was the tercentenary of Cheam School, the oldest prep school in the country, or so we Old Cheesemites boast. I was head boy. Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten was our most famous old boy and star attraction for snobbish prospective parents. I cannot remember a word that he said (I was too frightened about my own speech). But I remember that it was confident, ringing stuff, and that we greeted it with rapturous applause and one of the earliest examples of a standing ovation. Well, we would, wouldn't we? He had just asked our famous headmaster, H. M. S. Taylor, for a whole day's holiday for us out of the hell-hole.

Here is a conventional view of the old-style Duke from the shocking pink pen of the step-grandmother-in-law of the Prince of Wales: "A very handsome, attractive and charming young man... He has been a rock of strength in her very arduous and exacting life. His sense of humour has also smoothed a path which is often thorny despite her brilliant intelligence and astounding knowledge of world affairs."

And here is a more perceptive view from a more intelligent writer than either of them, Andrew Duncan: "He has the charisma of a Prince: tough-looking face, hard mouth, penetrating eyes, a voice pitched between arrogance and a certain peevish

On progress

'In every age the great human civilisations have depended far more upon emotional inspiration than upon the standard of plumbing'

querulousness, a heart-throb to the provinces, wise-cracking his way round the globe, peddling bright hopes and salutary advice. A man attractive to women, envied by men, a bit vicious on the polo field, autocratic, something of a ham actor - and in the end, he lives a good life, but he has to pay for it, and he has never been rich."

None of those views is quite right. You have to be Tacitus to capture a man's character in a couple of sentences. But all three of them convey something of the old-style Duke Mark I. What about the new-style Duke, Mark II? On the cover of his book - *A Question of Balance* (to be published on May 24 by Michael Russell, £5.95), the old eagle-eyed, eagle-beaked face looks out at us challengingly (a bit arrogantly, a bit humorously) from the dust jacket, but he really is going bald. Inside are collected addresses he has given at various times on general subjects of life, and society, and religion.

Running through them is the Duke's belief in the importance of the individual, his dislike of state and corporate control, and his faith in the moral standards he was taught as a boy: the morality of cold baths, Christianity, cricket, and Kurt Hahn. He cannot decide whether his passion for individualism is due to what he learned about Christianity or what he learned about Christianity. But for him they go together like bacon and eggs or opb and accept. I am very much inclined to believe that religious conviction is the strongest and probably the only factor in sustaining the

On education

'Learning against a background of no experience means that there is no way of assessing the importance or the relevance of what is being taught'

dignity and integrity of the individual.

Armed with this dialectic he takes on the dragons of the modern world. There is a hearty though superficial dual demolition of Marxism. It runs roughly, compressing it a bit. Marx's weakness was a hopelessly unrealistic understanding of human nature. His obsession with science and scientific socialism, with materialism and dialectics, and with academic research, blinded him to the power, variety and irrational nature of human emotions and talents, and to the fact that such qualities of human nature are equally distributed among all people regardless of class or intellect.

Christ only tried to influence men in their behaviour towards each other through their belief in God and promised paradise in the next world, whereas the middle-class intellectual sought absolute political power and expected to achieve paradise in this world. The Duke is on Christ's side. He goes on that it is one of the unfortunate rules of human nature that whenever people get on to a good thing, they promptly overdo it. "Selfishness" and thoughtlessness are more to blame than malice. The classic flaw in Marx's ideas was that scientific answers could be applied to social issues.

Another point he makes: the idea of taking away property from other people has much more appeal if one has none of one's own. One of the products of our confiscatory taxation is the rapid and extensive development of fringe benefits, tied to particular jobs in the same way as the old agricultural tied cottage. The beneficiaries feel that they have gained something, but they seem to be unaware that they are in danger of becoming virtual slaves of their employers or of the State. After all, slaves live

On Karl Marx

'One of Marx's worst miscalculations was to forget that if you threaten people with death or the expropriation of their property they are unlikely to give you their loyal support'

entirely on fringe benefits. Marxists personify certain classes as evil, and use words as subjectively as Humpty Dumpty. Now for the first time since mankind and Marx took off on their materialist spree, there are signs that human, ethical, and moral values are coming to be seen as more important than the most glittering products of engineering genius.

"There will doubtless always be a proportion who will enjoy reverting to standards of behaviour which even our remote ancestors would have found idiotic and revolting, but surely it is not too much to hope that more and more people will come to realise that it is men and their behaviour, their emotions, their conflicts, and their ideals which govern the future."

We have rated computers above compassion, machines above mercy, and telecommunications above human relations. And so, the Duke has a taste for alliteration. There are apt citations of sages from Aristotle to Adam Smith and de Tocqueville. Since he has exposed himself to scholarly quibbling, I doubt whether he was wise to pick Hadrian's Wall as an example of a wall built to keep foreigners out, and the Berlin Wall as the first wall in history designed to keep its citizens in. Quite a respectable body of scholarship believes that Hadrian's Wall as the northern limit of the Empire was built to do just that.

The Duke goes on to consider truth, and stays for the answer that peace, love, and beauty cannot be obtained by falsehood. He flashes his old dislike of a man without a degree, of university education being considered the highest sort of education. He is against Keynes, in favour of large doses of organized work as rehabilitation for young offend-

On sex education

'It is rather a sad commentary that of all the functions of our bodies, the only one that schools feel worth bothering about is the reproductive system'

ers, and married about the population explosion. "The trouble is that there are so many females of breeding age who are either ignorant or irresponsible, or sometimes both ignorant and irresponsible, and so many men to encourage them to be irresponsible."

What are we to make of all this? One could say that we are indeed lucky in our Elder Statesman Duke. It is admirable and rather touching that he takes so much trouble and thinks so hard about issues addressed to people who really do not mind what he says so long as he dignifies them with his presence. There is considerable bluff common sense and decency in here.

One could say that as an intellectual exercise it is like a dog's walking on its hind legs. It is not wrong; but you are surprised to find it done at all by

On nationalisation

'Substituting Parliament for shareholders does make it more difficult for Parliament to treat all sectors and sections of the State with complete impartiality'

a member of the royal family. Reading it straight through is rather like swimming in chilled mud: bracing, but exhausting. There are rather too many of H.M.S.T.'s thunderous and harsh old simplicities still echoing from Sunday sermons a generation ago.

One could say that if there were to be a right-wing coup in this country, the Queen and the Prince of Wales would be sent as our native equivalent of Siberia, and that the Duke of Edinburgh and Prince Andrew would be used as figureheads by our Colonels. To say that would be in bad taste, as well as a joke, as well as perhaps High Treason.

The middle-aged view is that none of those explanations is the whole truth, but that there is a bit of truth in all of them. But then, we are all growing middle-aged, not just our Elder Statesman.



Cheam School 1947: Philip Howard, head boy (left), Lieutenant Philip Mountbatten, Hugh Farmer and Lord Sherwood

Entertainments Guide

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How to do a deal without a sell-out

Until three weeks ago British public and political interest in the 149-year-old dispute over the Falklands had been transient. A real understanding of the issues, the nature and character of the islands, had been confined to those relatively few people who had made the 8,000-mile journey. Now a possibility heightened by the submarine incident yesterday — British servicemen, islanders and Argentines could be locked in combat over territory which few really know and understand.

There is now a widely held view that the Foreign Office has always wanted to get rid of the islands. On the contrary, the Foreign Office has always held a profound and genuine concern for their welfare, though understandably both the Office and its ministers have been bound to consider the wider implications for Britain's international relationships. If there was a "Foreign Office view" it was a gradually increasing pessimism about the island's economic, political and security future.

These assessments and attitudes prompted the initiative in 1975 of sending an economic mission to report on the problems and potential of the islands; the report was to provide the basis for future discussions with the Argentines.

As with so much else in our Falklands/Argentine dealings it was utterly misinterpreted by the Argentines. They saw the appointment of Lord Shackleton, son of the intrepid explorer, as a deliberate challenge.

It was my first taste of a

Falklands' crisis. One never easily forgets sitting in an office receiving regular reports from a ship under shell fire, with a captain turning a blind eye to the shells and steadily sailing back to Port Stanley. Individual acts of bravery and nerve noticeable in the current crisis have their antecedents.

Lord Shackleton reported in July 1976. His recommendations ranged from the multi-million pound proposal to extend the airstrip to details concerning the grasslands trial unit. The report identified the major resources of oil and fish in the area and underlined the potential of oil.

Simultaneously we had been considering the political/sovereignty options, including a condominium and a Hong Kong-style lease. Neither of these was launched. Instead, on February 2, 1977, Tony Crosland announced that "new developments (a reference to the Shackleton report) required a framework of greater political and economic co-operation. Without such a framework the prospect of achieving a prosperous and durable future for the islands is bleak."

I was dispatched to the Islands tragically during the very week that Tony Crosland collapsed and died.

I had not appreciated the true nature and character of the Falkland Islands and their people until my visit. The few hundred islanders who travel regularly to Britain disguise the fact that the vast majority have never been off the islands. Some have not even been to Port Stanley.

Their traditions are British, their roots are deep in the islands. Their ties with Britain are historic and possibly family, but not physical. I therefore find it deeply distasteful to listen to some of those who, having roundly con-

As British forces engage an Argentine submarine
Ted Rowlands, who visited the Falklands as a Foreign Office minister in 1977, argues that the invasion might, ironically, work in favour of the islanders.

demned Mr Tebbitt for urging that we "get on our bike" to find jobs are now advocating the extreme equivalent for the islanders, that they should be transported either to council houses in Britain or distant sheep farms in New Zealand.

I found the islanders fearful of the Argentines and suspicious of British ministers. Tragically, recent events have proved those fears and suspicions to be justified. After extensive consultations with councillors and in almost every settlement, woolshed and farmyard, it was agreed that we should open negotiations on our economic and political relations with Argentina, including sovereignty.

The islanders' view was straightforward — "go and find out what you can get for us and report back".

From an early date the negotiations were clouded by distrust and deceit, particularly after our discovery in 1977 of a nonsensical but symbolically significant Argen-

tine gesture in occupying illegally one of the most southerly parts of the South Sandwich Islands — Southern Thule. At first they denied it and then explained it away in terms of a temporary Argentine scientific exploration mission.

The Southern Thule affair undermined much of our confidence in meaningful negotiations. The Argentines were revealed as untrustworthy cheats. The assumption, thereafter, had to be made that even if one carried on negotiating then it was vital to do so from a position of best possible strength. It had to be made absolutely clear to them that any attempt to change the balance of negotiations, altering fundamentally the existing sovereignty position by force, would be met by force. They had to be deterred, and they were until a fortnight last Friday.

Looking back on two years of discussions, fraught and distrustful as they were, I believe we were perhaps groping towards some ideas and solutions which may have relevance for the future. A clear distinction can be made between sovereignty involving people, their homes and communities, and sovereignty over resources. I should not consider it a betrayal or sell-out if a British government sought a solution involving changes in sovereignty over resources in return for the absolute sovereignty over people, their homes, land and communities — a people who have been and wish to remain British in the Falklands.

Sovereignty is not some high sounding concept devised by international lawyers to keep themselves in business. It has a whole series of practical dimensions. Whose currency rules? Who controls internal and external

security? Who will represent the islanders in the international community? Does one concede the right of Argentines to enter or leave without immigration procedures? Will they have the right to purchase land? A rumoured land deal involving Mr Jimmy Goldsmith and Argentine financiers was scotched a year or two ago by our clear declaration against any alienation of Falklands' land.

Because of the invasion, things will never be the same for the islanders. Some commentators have concluded that, as a consequence, they will now be forced to accept unpalatable solutions previously rejected. I challenge that.

First, I have always assumed that all our efforts in resisting the islanders' freedom of choice. Secondly, we must not underestimate the immense impact on Argentina's rulers if they are forced to leave under the combined international diplomatic, economic and British military pressure.

Future Argentine leaders will not easily forget the sight of Argentines queuing at the banks to withdraw their pesos, the disruption of their major trading links with Europe, and the prospect of the destruction of their cherished fleet.

Therefore, from the present conflict there may emerge meaningful negotiations and from them a system of shared sovereignty over the resources of the area, combined with Argentine and international recognition of the islanders' true sovereign rights. That must be our objective.

The author is Labour MP for Merthyr Tydfil.

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Could Reagan really rattle the Kremlin?

In the office of one of the President's foreign policy advisers in Washington hangs a black poster advertising a film called *Bedtime for Brezhnev*. The star, a certain Ronald Reagan, is depicted holding an unshaven and villainous-looking Leonid Brezhnev by the lapels, while the Soviet leader's black-hatted cronies — Fidel Castro and Colonel Gaddafi, no less — grimace helplessly. Mr Reagan — clean-shaven, firm-jawed — is flanked by Vice President George Bush and Henry "Doc" Kissinger, both in white suits. "From out of the West," reads the caption, "they dusted off their guns, and rode out to protect the world they knew and the women they loved."

The "get tough with the Russians" school of diplomacy has in fact taken a few knocks in the 15 months since Mr Reagan was elected, due partly to growing criticism of high defence spending at a time of economic recession, and partly to growing public anxiety over the possibility of nuclear conflict.

There is still a great deal of support for the Administration's view of the global struggle against communism, with the hand of Moscow decried in every conceivable crisis, especially the one over the Falklands. Argentina over the Falklands being only the latest example. But there is also pressure — particularly from businessmen and farmers — for a more realistic approach.

Russia, coupled with general scepticism about the Administration's ability to take the measure of Soviet mischief-making.

The idea of a summit meeting between the two superpowers — Mr Reagan is 72, Mr Brezhnev 76 — was first put forward by Moscow, and ignored by Washington, but is now being revived by Mr Reagan.

There may have been a ploy, based on the assumption that the Soviet leader would be too old to make it. But Mr Brezhnev has bounced back, promising a "neutral country" of New York to host the summit, and the autumn instead of the summer as the time.

This leads some to suspect that although Mr Reagan is physically fitter than Mr Brezhnev, the Soviet leader is faster on his feet politically, and despite the fact that he is now a lame duck, he has the advantage of Soviet guile, experience and continuity.

For Americans, by contrast, are still arguing about whether to adopt a more aggressive attitude towards the Soviet Union at a time when the Kremlin is entering a succession crisis. In the battle for Reagan's ear, the "hardliners" favour continuing the Soviet Union's nuclear engagement, while the "softliners" favour a more cautious approach.

Most Americans sympathise with the need to restrain the Soviet Union, and to deal with it from a position of strength. But how, some of them ask, does the Administration's picture of Russia as a crumbling empire square with its image of Russia as an omnipotent, omniscient and infinitely resourceful enemy? If the two images are compatible, rather than mutually exclusive, how should American policy towards Moscow be conducted?

There are no clear answers, and the tug of war continues. Although Mr Haig, Mr Weinberger and the White House staff contradict one another less in public than they did, the Administration continues to speak with several, often conflicting voices. Mr Reagan himself is a mixture of the hardliners and the softliners, and his policy towards Moscow is a policy of "strategic ambiguity".

"Ambiguity" is a word much heard in Washington, used with contempt, so is "adversarial", used with approval. The United States, it is said, should stop "propagating" the moribund Soviet economy, stop subsidising the Soviet military buildup, and stop cushioning the Soviet leadership from realities. The struggle for succession in the Kremlin, some officials suggest, offers America a "window of opportunity".

unity" which it can use either to put pressure on the Russians or, in an extreme case — though this is a minority view — to precipitate a crisis of the Soviet system itself (not so much *Bedtime for Brezhnev*, more *Apocalypse Now*).

At the other end of the spectrum are those who see the Soviet Union as a power which — regardless of who is in charge of its destinies — has continuing and legitimate interests which have to be accommodated. Russia, such "moderates" argue (using "hardliners" and "moderates" as rough and ready guides) is both insecure and adventurous, self-sufficient and in need of Western help.

So what is needed is something not so far removed from the "web of relationships" which Dr Kissinger sought to construct, with incentives for "responsible behaviour" by the Russians, penalties for the opposite, and a strong military posture.

The accusation that Reaganite foreign policy is largely a cynical strategy to exploit loopholes in SALT II and to build up its nuclear forces — and that further negotiations on strategic arms reduction (not significantly, limitation) must avoid the mistakes made in earlier negotiations.

According to Eugene Rostow, head of the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency, the American position on START will include calculations involving both numbers of warheads (not launchers) and "throw weight" or destructive power. President Reagan is expected to make an announcement about START when he visits Europe in June, and at the United Nations Disarmament Conference the same month.

The drawback of the American approach is that it assumes Soviet willingness to negotiate away the lead which Washington claims the Russians have unfairly established.

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The day after the Pope leaves Britain. That Dr Runcie has accepted the invitation, I am told, is largely due to Sir Hector Laing, chairman of United Biscuits and a former chairman of the North Africa campaign of the last war.

One could say that many of Sir Hector's important connections are built upon sand. Earlier this year he lent his aeroplane to Denis Thatcher for his trip to Tanganyika in search of his son Mark, who was in the Sahara.

You will find no more jokes about the Argentines in the Falklands in this column, but I could not resist this: the film *Bedtime for Brezhnev* was made in 1979, having been selected in the commission of an unimpaired crime for want of a woman, is mentioned twice in the census of 1838. The first time his name is given as Louis Depredat, but the second it appears as Louis Depredat.

Paying for playing
Have modern composers lost their touch? Genichi Kawakami, president of the Yamaha Music Foundation, fears they may have. He is offering cash prizes up to £1,000 to composers who can perform their own music in public, as Mozart and Chopin did.

Kawakami's rules are not unduly restrictive. Composers can play on any instrument they wish, as long as they play a "significant part" in the performance. The winners of this competition will take part in a concert in Tokyo in December.

Trenchermen
A day or two after saying goodbye to the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, will be principal guest at the Food and Drink Industries Council luncheon at the Portico Tun room in Whitebread's City.

Quiz answers
1. Sales of Scotch whisky fell by a third last year.
2. The Queen, who is said by her family to put on a "pity face".
3. Peter Ustinov. It will be an attraction at this year's Edinburgh Festival.
4. The hang glider pilot, Peter Calvert.

The man who first showed Britain the news

Twelve years ago, at an age when most men have already retired, Tom Hopkinson assembled 20 or so ill-assorted students at the recently and improbably renamed Centre for Journalism Studies at University College, Cardiff.

Today the Cardiff centre is part of the furniture of British journalism training. But in 1970 the one-year course of which those students were the guinea-pigs was understandably treated with scepticism and disdain by the university authorities and the newspaper industry alike.

Of the class of '71, some, unimpressed by the prospect of the hard slog of a provincial paper, went on to sensible jobs like management traineeships at Marks and Spencer. But three embarked on successful careers with the BBC and others went to regional weekly or evening newspapers.

One, Brian Wilson, to Hopkinson's delight, went off to found the *West Highland Free Press*, the Hebridean weekly which earlier this month celebrated its tenth anniversary.

For many of us, the principal attraction of the course was Hopkinson himself. A man who had come through advertising and publicity to edit the most successful British picture magazine ever, and was sacked at the height of his success; an editor who managed to be a serious writer throughout his career and successive marriages to three remarkable women; and who was persuaded by the third, Dorothy, to make a fresh start in South Africa at the age of 50 running *Drum*, a pathfinder magazine for blacks.

Whether he was talking about the discomfiting reaction of his friend George Orwell to the German invasion of Russia — "What



about the imprisoned writers?" or, as he did one sunny afternoon after the *Life* photographer Larry Burrows was killed in Vietnam, giving an impromptu lecture with slides on modern war photography, he always had something interesting to say.

Of this our time, the fascinating first part of Sir Tom Hopkinson's autobiography, is published today. It takes his story to just after his sacking from *Picture Post*. There is at least one other volume in the pipeline.

Hopkinson's father, Henry, was a remarkable man, a classical archaeologist who asked his children — Tom was then nine — for their approval when he decided to throw up a comfortable academic life and become a clergyman. The family newspaper, not surprisingly, in a somewhat plain-living and high-spirited Lancashire household, was the *Manchester Guardian*. And it was there that Hopkinson vainly sought a job in his twenties.

"I thought all *Guardian* leader writers wore tweed suits, smoked pipes, and had terriers," he said last week. "But I was prepared to undergo all those hardships if I could realize what was

the height of my social and journalistic ambition." In fact his first job — briefly, until it folded — was with the *Westminster Gazette*. Then came Crawford's, the advertising agency, which he regarded as a prison. He escaped to Odhams' publicity department where, at the height of the *Daily Herald's* special offer mania, he had an appalling encyclopedia which *Herald* readers were told contained The Sum Total of All Human Knowledge round eminent academics for their endorsement. Only the Astronomer Royal had the gall to tell him that he and the *Herald* should be prosecuted for fraud.

"Thank God," Hopkinson characteristically told him, "you're the first one who's given a straight answer." Angered by unemployment and the Macdonald government's incompetence, Hopkinson produced a lampoon made up of excerpts from ministerial speeches. It was that which propelled him back into journalism, via the doomed *Clarion* to *Picture Post*.

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liberal, an editor who continued to employ the communist Bert Lloyd but who combed through East European magazines to find a picture of a humiliated American prisoner to counterbalance Hardy's pictures of South Korean atrocities.

After *Picture Post* he freelanced and spent two years as features editor of the *News Chronicle*. Then came the invitation to go out to Johannesburg to edit *Drum*.

The African staff at *Drum*, where Hopkinson worked for three exhilarating and frustrating years, could, he says now, always be relied on in a crisis. But for a lot of the rest of the time they were drunk, or missing, or both.

Like *Picture Post*, *Drum* had some great scoops, of which Ian Berry's compelling photographs of the Sharpeville shootings were the most notable.

At the emotional farewell given him by the talented but erratic African staff, Hopkinson said he wished he had been able to hand over to an African editor. It was his conviction of the need to promote African journalists and journalism that first led him into training, first in Nairobi and later at Cardiff.

For many years now he has

been a disciple of the Indian master, Meher Baba, whom Dorothy took him to see in the 1950s. The book they both wrote about Baba, swept through his followers in the US and in India. All profits go to the Baba Foundation.

For the most part gentle and mild-mannered, Hopkinson also has a streak of toughness. When a series of articles he wrote for the *Rand Daily Mail* brought him into conflict with the South African government, a Nationalist politician went too far and said that Hopkinson was a bastard — or, to be precise, his father was a bastard. Hopkinson sued, doing so, he said, not so much on his own behalf but on that of his father, who happened to be the Archdeacon of Westmorland. He got his money.

He and Dorothy rise each morning at 6.30 in their flat overlooking the Bristol Channel to begin work. When they complete a revision of their book on Meher Baba, he will begin a second volume of autobiography. It will be worth waiting for because at 77, Hopkinson not only has his ideals intact but has as much to say as ever and is saying it just as well.

Donald Macintyre

Richard Owen

The sparkling way to a brighter union image

Philip Sparks says he knows what makes trade unions so unpopular in Britain. It is that they do not advertise widely enough. Mr Sparks is director of public affairs for the American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees, the public sector union in the United States. AFSCME is spending \$2m this year on an advertising campaign which started four months before their major contract negotiations (which the simple British would probably call "pay talks") are due to begin.

Trade unions, says Sparks, have greater public acceptability than used-car salesmen and politicians, but probably not much. "Our strategy has to be to explain the major negotiating issues, and to hit the public hard with those before the bargainers ever sit down with the employers," he says.

Sparks was in Britain over the weekend to address the annual conference of the Public Relations Consultants Association, and was able to produce some devastating examples of what PR can do if it is turned against industry. A boycott he directed against the Duke Power Corporation sunk the value of its stock by a quarter, and incidentally produced an Oscar-winning documentary, *Hartan County USA*, as well as a satisfactory settlement.

In his campaign against the J P Stevens textile mill, Sparks used

the union's pension fund clout to get Stevens directors sacked from the boards of other companies. In a 11-day strike by miners over the national coal contract, Sparks helped direct publicity "which was a substantial part of our strategy in winning nearly nine-tenths of what we had originally offered, and the best coal contract ever."

Most recently, Sparks has produced a television documentary about a textile workers' dispute. "It was aired by 125 television stations in six months, and the threat of boycott just broke the management's will to resist."

The trouble with industrial relations in Britain, Sparks says, is not that the unions are too powerful, but that they leave it till the pickets are out to explain their case.

Family affair
If Robert Mellish, Labour MP for Bermondsey and former chief whip, is thrown out of the Labour Party it could be his nephew, Tom, who has to start the throwing. Mellish has been complained against for a letter urging voters to support independent, rather than Labour, candidates in Southwark's local elections.

It would be up to Mellish's own Catford ward to start disciplinary proceedings if they are decided upon, and the ward secretary there is Mellish's nephew, Tom.

Chew this over
It is a notorious truth that you cannot eat or drink anything without endangering your health

THE TIMES DIARY



A label guaranteeing that the cloth bearing it is made of pure Falkland Islands wool has proved popular in Italy, Japan and America, but had not caught on in Britain before the invasion.

Colin Smith of J. G. Field in Bradford, agent for 40 farms independent of the Falkland

Island Company and himself a partner in a farm, devised the label and had large numbers printed. The only British retailer known to have used them is Austin Reed, for jackets made up of cloth woven in Scotland.

The reverse of the label describes Falkland wool, on which the islanders depend for their livelihood, as having "superb strength, resilience and remarkable softness".

and arts at the GLC, and several suggestions have been made as to where the pieces might go next.

It is most likely that the standing figures will go to Battersea Park and the reclining ones to the grounds of Kenwood House, Hampstead. It would be appropriate to have a Moore at Kenwood, as an unknown artist in the 1930s he had his studio in Hampstead, and he drew people sheltering from the blitz on the platforms of Hampstead tube

station.

Back to Leeds
A converted granary near the harbour at Wallsend-on-the-sea on the Norfolk coast, best known as the home of whelks, provided the venue for the start of a tour by the young German pianist Wolfgang Manz this weekend.

His next stop is Leeds, where it is widely held, he was robbed last September in the piano competition. With four international awards already to his credit, Manz was placed only

second though our own critic, Hilary Finch, paid tribute to his "unsurpassed degree of imaginatively intelligent musicianship".

Saddled
A gift from the Pakistani head of state, General Zia ul-Haq, to his Turkish counterpart, General Evren, is very much alive and kicking after arrival in Ankara. Saqib, an imposing five-year-old stallion of impeccable British and Pakistani ancestry, has proved more than a match for the veteran riders of the presidential guard, who are trying to train him as an Olympic horse.

The bravest officer lasts in the saddle on Saqib's back for 15 seconds at most, and the Turkish press have been treated to a series of pictures of the rearing horse giving the cavalrymen experience of aviation. The guards officers attribute Saqib's temper to his annoyance at being taken away from his previous career as a stud.

The five bulls and four cows which accompanied him to his new country are said to be perfectly content "improving the quality of Turkish livestock" at the various state farms to which they have been distributed.

Pettifoggery
Nearly half the administration costs of the EEC go on translation and interpretation. In 1979 the cost was about £214m. This year it will far exceed £250m. Understandably the Commission is backing a £8.5m research programme to produce a computer-based translation machine.

Paying for playing
Have modern composers lost their touch? Genichi Kawakami, president of the Yamaha Music Foundation, fears they may have. He is offering cash prizes up to £1,000 to composers who can perform their own music in public, as Mozart and Chopin did.

Kawakami's rules are not unduly restrictive. Composers can play on any instrument they wish, as long as they play a "significant part" in the performance. The winners of this competition will take part in a concert in Tokyo in December.

Trenchermen
A day or two after saying goodbye to the Pope, the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie, will be principal guest at the Food and Drink Industries Council luncheon at the Portico Tun room in Whitebread's City.

Quiz answers
1. Sales of Scotch whisky fell by a third last year.
2. The Queen, who is said by her family to put on a "pity face".
3. Peter Ustinov. It will be an attraction at this year's Edinburgh Festival.
4. The hang glider pilot, Peter Calvert.

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Reagan
rattle
remlin?



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THE TIMES MONDAY APRIL 26 1982

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TIME TO TAKE SIDES

The landing on South Georgia takes the Falklands crisis into a new and potentially still more dangerous phase. But it is consistent with international law and with the British strategy of seeking to remove Argentine control by a proportionate response. This is the first time in the crisis that Britain has taken forceful action, as distinct from threatening it. But it is still a response to aggression, not an aggressive act itself, so it comes within the definition of self-defence. It is also the least that could have been done in the circumstances if the task force was not to be left indefinitely cruising around the islands, itself vulnerable to attack and potential disaster. But if this action is justified, as it is, what chance is there of securing a satisfactory settlement that will prevent the conflict moving on to an even more dangerous level?

Up to now hopes of a just and peaceful solution have been pinned to Mr Haig's mediating mission. It was always a fine point as to whether the influence of the United States could most effectively be brought to bear by playing this role or as Britain's open and declared supporter. But the United States was undoubtedly better placed than anyone else to act as mediator.

Mr Haig assumed the task with zeal and he deserved support and encouragement so long as he seemed to stand up to his responsibilities. However, it became more and more evident, after Mr Haig's visit to Washington, that he was in danger of being reduced from the noble role of a mediator to that of a despairing diplomatic courier. For him to have continued his mission beyond that point would have contributed neither to the dignity of his Government nor to the cause of international peace. The operations yesterday in South Georgia demonstrate that Britain had come to this sombre conclusion. Do they now give Mr Haig another chance, or is there some other process which can assist the cause of a just solution to the crisis?

A course that has been widely canvassed is to seek mediation by the United Nations. A distinction needs

to be drawn here between the part that the United Nations might possibly play under any settlement and the part that it might play in bringing a settlement about. Before asking the United Nations to play a negotiating role, the first question that must be asked is what reason there is to suppose that it could do the job more successfully than Mr Haig. Would Argentina — or Britain — come to that really find it harder to resist pressure from the customarily discordant voices of the United Nations than from the most powerful country in the world, in whose good graces both Argentina and Britain must hope to sit?

But, it might be said, with shots now being exchanged would it make matters any worse if the UN had a go, even if it failed? The answer is that it might make matters worse in a number of respects. The UN is not a body in which there can be confidence that a complex issue would be dealt with consistently on the merits of the case. The Security Council certainly responded promptly and appropriately to the invasion of the islands by passing Resolution 502. That Resolution stands, and Britain's action yesterday does not conflict with its stated injunction to Argentina to remove its forces from the islands. But conflicting pressures might soon become apparent in the UN under the pressure of this crisis.

One of the principal fears of the western alliance throughout this emergency is that it might offer the Soviet Union the opportunity for further activity in the American hemisphere. But would it be possible to keep the Soviet Union out of the process for long in these circumstances? It is also customary in the United Nations for positions to be taken up on the basis of trading votes between different groups. That has been avoided so far in the UN's response to the Falklands crisis, but it has been asked to take only the simple stand on principle. If it was to play a larger part, the wishes and interests of the islanders could easily become lost in the intricacies of United Nations politics. Above all, there must be the fear that once an issue goes

to the UN for mediation it is very difficult to get it back again. This would be a positive advantage if the purpose were simply to find a respectable means of prolonging the process of negotiation in order to avoid armed conflict. But under present circumstances it would perpetuate Argentine control of the Falklands.

Mediation by the UN is therefore not the answer. Is there any other method of securing a just settlement, short of a much fuller military response than yesterday's affair? It should be clear by now that Argentina will respond only to pressure, not to persuasion. Mr Haig brought to bear a degree of diplomatic pressure, which proved inadequate. The time has now come when this will need to be supplemented with economic pressure. There are two reasons why the United States ought now to be ready to impose economic sanctions once the role of mediator is no longer appropriate: to induce Argentina to make concessions and to demonstrate to British opinion that their American ally is prepared to do at least as much in a just cause as their European partners.

It would not make much sense for the United States to apply to Argentina the sanctions that it earlier imposed against Iran because, unlike Iran, Argentina has no major assets in the United States. Sanctions against Argentina could take one of two forms: restrictions against imports from that country, along the lines of those imposed by the European Community, or advice to American banks not to renew credit to Argentina.

Neither course would be painless for the United States. A trade embargo would intensify feeling against the United States in Latin America, and credit restraint would not be welcome to the banking community within the United States. But economic sanctions never are painless to impose. The United States has from time to time found it necessary to ask its allies to take action that would be disagreeable for them. Yesterday's events make it all the more important, for itself, as for its allies that it now returns the compliment.

ANOTHER WAR: ANOTHER PEACE?

It is said that Israel's withdrawal of its last forces from the Sinai peninsula should have been marked by scenes of destruction — homes demolished, trees uprooted, toilet fittings ripped out and air conditioners smashed. Of course the Israeli settlers were resentful of Egypt's unwillingness to let them stay in settlements which their hard work had conjured from the bare desert of fifteen years ago. That is understandable that Egyptians did not want to legitimize and perpetuate a foreign presence made possible by military occupation. Peaceful immigration voluntarily accepted by a sovereign state is one thing; colonization is another. In agreeing to withdraw lock stock and barrel from all the occupied Egyptian territory in return for peace, and in sticking to that agreement in spite of all the pain and uncertainty it involved, Israel showed her better self.

The unfortunate details should obscure the importance of what has happened. Egypt under President Sadat took the road to peace through direct negotiations. All Arab leaders before Sadat had excused themselves from taking that road, pointing out that Israel's stated positions ruled out any hope of achieving through negotiations even minimum Arab demands. Had not Moshe Dayan declared that he would prefer Sharm al-Shaikh without peace to peace without Sharm al-Shaikh? Did not Mr Begin, even after President Sadat's visit to Jerusalem in 1977, insist that under any peace treaty Israeli settlements in Sinai would remain, "linked to Israeli administration and law" and "defended by an Israeli force"? Did he not, indeed, reserve a bungalow in one of those settlements for his own retirement? Yet Israel yesterday left Sharm al-Shaikh, and all the Israeli settlements in Sinai have been abandoned. When Dayan made his remark, no one really believed that Egypt would be willing to sign a

peace treaty, with or without Sharm al-Shaikh. Once a peace treaty was actually on offer, Israel reacted quite differently.

Could other Arabs expect an analogous reaction if they presented themselves at the conference table, forswearing in advance — as Sadat did — any intentions of pursuing their quarrel with Israel further by warlike means? Would a Syrian leader, bearing the olive branch to Jerusalem, find Israel willing after all to "come down from the Golan Heights" under a peace treaty which installed a Multilateral Force and Observers on those Heights, notwithstanding so many past official declarations to the contrary, culminating in the law passed by the Knesset last December? Above all, would the Palestinians, whether represented by the PLO or by some other body, find Israel willing to allow them self-determination in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip provided they bowed in advance to international pressure and unequivocally recognized the right of Israel to exist within its pre-1967 borders?

The official Israeli answer to those questions, of course, remains firmly negative — at any rate so long as they are posed only conditionally, and by outsiders; which is the only way they will be posed in the foreseeable future since the Arab parties concerned have no hesitation in accepting this negative response at its face value. Only Egypt, supported rather half-heartedly by some Western countries, is urging the opposite view, and advertising its own success to fellow-Arabs as proof of the benefits of negotiation.

If Western countries are half-hearted about backing this Egyptian argument it is because they are themselves far from convinced that Israel would be as generous to Syria, or still less the Palestinians, as it has been to Egypt. Israel's response to Egypt, difficult and risky though it was, was dictated by a consistent Israeli strategy based on the assessment that Egypt is

an essential ingredient in any serious Arab threat to Israel's security. Major concessions were worth making to secure Egypt's neutrality. That once achieved, most Israeli strategists would see further concessions, even as the price of peace with the rest of the Arab world, as likely to impair Israel's security rather than enhance it.

It is probable that those Israeli strategists are wrong in the long term. Indeed the very doubts that many Israelis now feel about Egypt's sticking to the peace treaty would hardly arise if peace had been achieved with the Arab world as a whole. But as long as the all-out conflict between Israel and the Palestinians persists, Egypt's Arab loyalties and interests are going to be in conflict with her peace treaty obligations (even though the latter, for the moment, represent a stronger interest), and the risk of a new war from which Egypt would be unable to stand apart, or of a change of government resulting in a change of Egypt's alignment, will remain. And even if Egypt's neutrality can be counted on, Israel's present superiority over all other Arab forces combined is not necessarily a permanent phenomenon. The United States, it is true, is committed to maintaining that Israeli "qualitative edge". But the cost of doing so is rising constantly in financial terms, and could rise very steeply in political terms if it proved to be a real threat to the stability of Saudi Arabia — or even if the Saudi rulers merely decided to treat it as such and therefore moved to distance themselves from the United States by radically changing their policies.

If that moment came, and American policy had to be revised drastically in the middle of a major crisis, the consequences both for Israel and for the West could be very bad. It would be much better for both to negotiate from strength, to convince the Arabs now that the benefits of the Sadat approach are not confined to Egypt.

Chronic disorders

From Miss Jane Edmundson

Sir, Following the recent correspondence in your columns about the problems of modern living, I should like to point out a danger of what is supposed to be a safety feature in many modern cars.

Last week I was involved in a car accident. As they were wearing seat belts, the driver and front passenger escaped unhurt, but I was thrown against the back of the driver's head-restraint and received a very nasty cut above the eye, requiring nine stitches. According to the policeman who dealt with the accident this

is not an uncommon type of injury. Would it be too much to ask for a little padding to cushion these rigid head-restraints?

Yours faithfully,
JANE EDMUNDSON,
Flat 4,
167 West End Lane, NW6.
April 21.

Study of appeals procedures

From Mr David Jeffreys, QC, and others

Sir, We have noted with interest the recent coverage in *The Times* and elsewhere recording the concern felt in various quarters as to possible shortcomings in our procedures for reviewing criminal convictions and we have read with concern the examples of alleged miscarriages of justice which are said to have gone uncorrected by the Court of Appeal (Criminal Division) and by the Home Office.

The Criminal Bar Association has been concerned for a long time about possible methods of improving the way in which the courts and the executive deal with criminal appeals and recently identified a subcommittee of the association which has been inquiring into these matters for the last six months.

We are in the process of soundings the views of numerous practitioners, officials and organizations who have practical experience of the problems involved and we are anxious to write our report and submit our recommendations as a matter of urgency. We should be most keen, therefore, to hear from anyone who feels that they have a suggestion to contribute and we are grateful to you for extending the debate.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID JEFFREYS,
JOHN MARRIAGE,
NEVILLE SARONY,
JONATHAN CAPLAN,
5 Paper Buildings,
Temple, EC4.
April 23.

Darwinian evolution

From Dr Jim Dorrain

Sir, According to Mr Booker (feature, April 19) Darwin's theory of natural selection is "full of colossal holes" because "no intermediate species" each replaced by a new one in the fossil record. This statement is worthy of the tortuous meanderings of a Tennessee fundamentalist.

Taking the marine fossil record first, the evolutionary sequence of the Mesozoic ammonites has been worked out in such meticulous detail that not only are a great number of intermediate end species known, but they provide the most reliable key for correlating strata of this age. Considering the equally marine environment of the Mesozoic, it would appear that new species evolved not by natural selection, but under the biological constraint that at each locus in the chromosomes of the cells of a total generation, a gene mutation takes place about once in every half-million individuals. In geological time this is a frequent occurrence.

In contrast to marine evolution, the 60 million year evolution of the horse is documented beyond all question in the fossil record: from the tiny ancestor about the size of a fox terrier, through the dog-like forms and marshlands, with flat paws, the horse grew in size and gradually came to use its middle finger more and more, i.e. it commenced to run on finger tips. Eventually, in answer to increased aridity and the development of prairie lands, the adaptation became complete; speed, size and stamina were essential to survive and the finger became the hoof as we know it. This well documented evolutionary sequence is a beautiful example of natural selection at work.

It is of course far more difficult to find complete fossil sequences in continental rocks, where preservation is in general poor, than in well preserved marine rocks.

Had Darwin been alive when the important discoveries in cellular biology and genetics were made public, he would have been able to present practically the complete mechanics of natural selection.

Yours faithfully,
JIM DORRAIN, Director,
Premier Consolidated Oilfields Limited,
23 Lower Belgrave Street, SW1.

Worship and doctrine

From the Reverend I. H. S. Stratton

Sir, Mr Frank Field (April 16) has unwittingly stated the weakness in his own case. If, as he states, "what was technically known as Series 1... was in fact the form of service used by most parishes in the Church of England for the greater part of this century", then the Church was doing the very thing that the House of Commons tried to stop it from doing when collisions occurred in December, 1927, and June, 1928, and using forms of worship approved by its own representative body but not authorized by Parliament.

Yours faithfully,
IAN STRATTON,
14 Fawcett Road,
Salisbury.
April 19.

Cash or crisis

From Mr George Curtis

Sir, I have considerable sympathy with the views of the people represented by Messrs Secrett and Rose in their letter today (April 15). However, writing as a tenant farmer in a small way of business and as one subjected to considerable expense and labour relative to the size of my business by conservation considerations, so far as farming is concerned, I find them very naive.

Many of the sites that they are most interested in are on marginal land. It is on this land that the greatest pressures frequently occur, since it is by definition difficult to farm and as a

British scientists in Antarctica

From the Director of the British Antarctic Survey

Sir, It is reported (*The Times*, April 21 and 22) that British Antarctic Survey (BAS) scientists have gone into hiding and are becoming increasingly worried for their own safety. I would like to set the record straight.

Four BAS personnel at a permanent station on Bird Island, some of whom were intended to winter there, are carrying on with their work. Two men occupying a field hut at Schlieper Bay had finished their summer programme here; they were due to be picked up by the Bransfield this month and are waiting to return to Cambridge.

Two girls making a wildlife film are based at a field hut in St Andrew's Bay and were also due to return home this month. When hostilities seemed imminent, three men from our Grytviken station joined them to give them support. Four other men, including Grytviken moved to the Church at Grytviken whaling station half a mile away across the cove.

Being civilians, my men had no place in any fighting and it was sensible for them to distance themselves from it. After the arrival of the BAS base commander notified the Argentine commander of the location of the other Britishers and asked that they be collected and repatriated. This has not been done.

None of the danger to them is least if they remain where they are. They have reported to me daily that they are safe and well but naturally apprehensive; some of them are also cold and uncomfortable.

The Bransfield which, in the normal course of events, would have reached South Georgia and completed this season's transfer of personnel has, for obvious reasons, been instructed not to enter South Georgia waters.

Finally, the BAS are inexplicably said that this beautiful, isolated island, with the birds and seals as the only indigenous inhabitants, should have been the object of unprovoked aggression. R. M. LAWS, Director,
British Antarctic Survey,
High Cross,
Madingley Road, Cambridge.
April 22.

From Sir Donald Logan

Sir, The spotlight on the Falklands has so far shed little light on their true relationship with Antarctica.

It is misleading to describe the Falklands as Antarctic. They are much more like the Orkneys or Shetlands or even parts of Scotland, while the vast Antarctic continent some thousand miles to the south is like the higher Alps, only more so.

Nor is British sovereignty in Antarctica dependent upon our sovereignty in the Falkland Islands. British sovereignty in Antarctica arises from our early exploration and subsequent administration and occupation of part of the periphery of the continent, based on our sovereignty over a sector extending to the Pole. France, Norway, New Zealand, Australia and Chile have also made similar claims.

The only country which seeks to establish a claim to sovereignty in Antarctica derives from sovereignty over territory outside Antarctica is Argentina.

Other countries have not introduced this notion into Antarctica and in any case claims to sovereignty are regarded as frozen for the purposes of the Antarctic Treaty of 1959.

British territory in Antarctica was at one time included for administrative purposes in the Falkland Islands Dependencies, but since 1962 they have been

distinguished under the title of British Antarctic Territories, the Falkland Dependencies consisting now only of South Georgia and South Sandwich.

The Falkland Islands are on the same latitude south as London is north. They are at the limit of the southern temperate zone because Antarctica is much colder than the Arctic, but it is misleading in many respects to regard them as part of Antarctica.

Yours faithfully,
DONALD LOGAN,
6 Thurloe Street, SW7.

From Mr Alastair Forsyth

Sir, The Argentines are not normally popular in Latin America, nor is their present government an attractive one. And yet there is no doubt of the overwhelming Latin American support for the Argentine action in defying Britain and seizing the Falkland Islands.

Venezuela, which has hitherto always strongly supported democratic and democratic movements in Latin America, is now totally committed to supporting Argentina.

This surge of emotion is a fact and not easily argued against. It must be difficult to understand in Britain. Even for British residents here it was almost totally unexpected.

It must, however, be taken into account. It stems from deeply rooted feelings that Latin America has been at best patronised and at worst bullied and coerced by Britain, the United States and the other "former colonialist powers". Venezuela suffered especially, from British encroachment on her territory in Guiana and from the European powers' forcible debt collection in 1902.

The lesson is that even if by some dramatic feat of arms we regain all or part of the Falklands, our last state is likely to be worse than our first. There will be a further surge of emotion in favour of the defeated and humiliated Argentines. There will then be a real possibility of Venezuelan, Peruvian and other Latin Americans sending fighting units to support Argentina.

What do we do in the face of this possibility? Must we abandon our own carefully developed convictions? The answer is that if we are to avoid a totally disproportionate escalation of violence we must act with great skill, militarily, diplomatically and above all psychologically.

However satisfying a legal recourse to force would be it is satisfaction we may have to renounce.

Yours truly,
ALASTAIR FORSYTH,
Quinta Los Lares,
Calle 7, Los Palos Grandes,
Caracas, Venezuela.
April 21.

From Mr J. L. Lepage

Sir, The Falklands crisis has served to emphasize a degree of irregularity in our use and pronunciation of toponymic endings. When she doesn't — with hesitation — say Argentinian (Argentinian) Mrs Thatcher says Argentine (Argentine). I have heard a BBC reporter ask Lord Carrington about matters Argentine (Argentine) and Lord Carrington respond about matters Argentine (Argentine). One correspondent took old world satisfaction in imperially referring to Argentina as the Argentine (Argentine). The major conflict however appears to be between the adjectives Argentine (however pronounced) and Argentinian (which we will doubtless leave the Argentinians to pronounce Argentinian). It will be interesting, in the next few weeks, to see which wins this battle, or whether there will be some tarnishing diplomatic settlement.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN LOUIS LEPAGE,
MacLay Hall,
18 Park Terrace, Glasgow.

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A centre such as we are planning could easily be extended to include sports injuries and we already have the diagnostic facilities. It could quickly become a centre of excellence for the whole country.

I am etc,
H. BERIC WRIGHT,
Deputy Chairman,
BUPA Medical Centre,
Bartle Bridge House,
300 Gray's Inn Road, WC1.
April 10.

Ways across the water

From Mr E. Arlington

Sir, Your leading article (April 14) concerning the case against building a Channel tunnel refers to the Dover Harbour Board's claim to carry traffic as efficiently and comfortably and more cheaply by ferry service.

It is quite true that the report stated that the majority of pupils still adequately served, but this is hardly an enthusiastic commendation of the effects of spending cuts on the majority of schools and, if you couple this with not only the stringent criticisms of the effects of cuts on various areas of provision and with the Government's firm intention to cut education expenditure in real terms in the future, then I think the future is very worrying.

Perhaps the greatest cause for concern is Sir Keith Joseph's immediate response to the report, which gave no indication whatsoever that he understood the real problems faced by the schools as a result of cuts.

Indeed, Sir Keith's response makes one wonder whether the Government of which he is a minister has a real commitment to the pursuit of appropriate standards of provision and attainment in the schools.

Yours faithfully,
DAVID HART,
The National Association of Head Teachers,
6 Paddockhall Road,
Haywards Heath, West Sussex.
April 20.

Championship rules

From Mrs Mary Cordingley

Sir, If the bureaucrats who control the Wimbledon championships must have their rules, let them make a new one: "That any player who has won five times or more may enter without the qualifying matches." It is unlikely to be invoked too often.

Yours faithfully,
MARY CORDINGLEY,
Church Cottage,
Shotesham, Norwich.

Perils for tourists in Catania

From Mr John Tatham

Sir, I am writing to warn you and your readers of the dangers which now exist in visiting eastern Sicily.

Catania, because of its location between Mount Etna and the sea, together with the lack of a bypass road, must be crossed by all car traffic coming from southern and western Sicily and going to the north-east. Owing to inadequate streets to handle such traffic, enormous hold-ups occur and it may take an hour to cross the city.

Catania has recently been infested with gangs of youths on motor cycles who attack cars, especially foreign-registered cars, when they are blocked in the traffic and seize any objects of value such as handbags, wallets, jewelry or necklaces and then escape down a side street. This year this crime has reached almost epidemic proportions and the local police admit that they have no means of countering it.

Only yesterday, at 11 am, my car was attacked while my wife and I were inside and it was stopped in a traffic jam. Although the doors were locked, a window was smashed with a hammer and my wife's handbag seized. Because the danger is known locally, this contained only the minimum of necessities but did include car papers, which you are obliged to carry with you.

Most people, and particularly those who arrive at Catania airport and hire cars, usually lose their money and passports, sometimes within half an hour of arrival.

In the case of loss of passports, it should be noted that HMG, unlike many other governments, does not have a consulate in eastern Sicily, the only British consulate being at Palermo.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN TATHAM,
Hotel Times,
Taormina, Sicily.
April 16.

Sports medical facilities

From Dr H. Beric Wright

Sir, Your recent article (April 8) about the need to improve sports medical facilities was both timely and apposite. Another area of possibly greater need is that of the physiological assessment of athletes in relation to their degree of training and performance potential.

Partly because of the lack of overall medical supervision in some sports, we were asked in 1980 by the British Olympic Association to provide a health screening facility for the entire, if ill-fated, British team for the last Olympics. This we did as an act of sponsorship and it did reveal medical need but also took us into the field of physiological assessment.

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THE ARTS

Television
Normal
mystery

In the house of a retired vicar, a table begins to levitate; giggles all round. Last night *Credo* (LWT) examined the state of psychological research in this country. "Why," the narrator asked, "do we understand so little about the paranormal?" When I see a retired vicar, no doubt familiar with the mysteries of the Incarnation and the Resurrection, trying to raise a table I begin to wonder why we understand so little about the normal.

The programme took as its occasion the centenary of the Society for Psychical Research, an organization which adopted a "scientific" attitude towards the paranormal in its attempt to find "indisputable scientific evidence" for strange phenomena. The effort goes on; *Credo* showed us an experimental centre where subjects testing the powers of thought transfer—ence were strapped to equipment which rivals that of Cape Canaveral in its complexity. The results are open to question, variously interpreted by the sceptical and the convinced. Like psychiatry, it works if you believe in it.

But there seems to be some confusion of intention among the devotees: if the paranormal is susceptible to scientific proof, it ceases to be paranormal. It is relegated to the context of ordinary knowledge. For those who wish to retain its mystery—and the appetite for mystery often refuels such beliefs—it would be better if it remained stubbornly resistant to the apparatus of hypothesis and experiment. *Credo* itself suggested a way out of this dilemma which will please everyone: we were told that psychical research depends upon the attitude of the experimenter. That is, deals with material which cannot be measured and which often can only be assumed.

If this is correct, then quite by accident it has anticipated the methods and material of contemporary science: you have only to turn to the *Science* report in this newspaper to see that molecular physics and astrophysics are dealing with phenomena just as strange and inexplicable as those of psychokinesis or levitation, with quarks like delicious poltergeists, black holes like ghosts in the cosmos. In fact, the more the scientific inquiry comes to depend upon the unseen and the merely hypothetical, the more the "paranormal" will be seen to be the basis of all reality. And then, by one of those strange paradoxes of human knowledge, the conventional paraphernalia of psychical research—and *Credo* covered most of the familiar ground—will become the popular image of science itself.

What is truth, after all? Of course *Credo* did not stay for an answer, perhaps because there is none. Robert Nye put the same point very well on *The South Bank Show* (LWT). He is one of our finest writers because, if he put it here, "I like to be able to lie and to fantasize." He has discovered by induction the source of all art, in myths and dreams which are more potent than any reality. Those who are trying to "prove" the paranormal may be going in quite the wrong direction.

Peter Ackroyd

Interview: Robert Hardy

The classical style

This had better start with a declaration of faint interest, in that Robert Hardy and I are distantly related by marriage; but if both your maternal grandparents happened to have married three times, as did mine, it is hard to find many people in the South of England to whom you are not distantly related by marriage. An interviewer who ruled out all such encounters would rapidly end up talking to himself.

So much for private matters; professionally, Robert Hardy is about to make a return to the theatre after more than eight years away from television. What brings him back (to the Mermelade on May 4 with previous firm next Thursday) is Frith Banbury's production of *Dear Liar*, the two-hander based on the letters of George Bernard Shaw and Mrs Patrick Campbell, who is played by Susan Phillips. Hardy's former "wife" in last winter's eminently successful television series about Churchill in the 1930s, *The Wilderness Years*.

Perhaps as a result of that television teaming, or perhaps because *Dear Liar* has been a consistent box-office winner since it was first cobbled together by Jerome Kilby in 1957 (it has just finished another long and triumphant run in Paris with Jean Marais and Edwige Fenech), the new Banbury production has already been playing to good business on tour, one which Hardy undertook with considerable trepidation.

"Eight years is a long time to spend away from the theatre, and as the last thing I did was to replace Alec Guinness in *Habes Corpus* in 1974, I was a little since I was involved in an altogether new stage production. And that was a disaster which opened one Christmas at the Fortune and was off by New Year's Eve. Sean Connery was directed to the theatre, and it was another two-hander. They were living in a large house in Wimbledon with no furniture at all, and when the rehearsals began to go really badly wrong Connery said perhaps it would be better if I went to live with them for a while, so that we could work through the evenings

as well, and all they had in this house was a huge glass cabinet which they said concentrated the mind wonderfully, so they used to make me sit in it every morning for twenty minutes before we started rehearsing. It didn't do a lot for the production, but it was an interesting time and I rather think my concentration has improved because of it."

This time things have been going rather better. Robert Hardy might think of us as a couple of tele-stars trying to clamber back into the straight theatre, but audiences have been very appreciative except for one lady at a Guildford matinee who, when I asked her to bang my fist on the desk, complained about the awful noise. But it's a lot of work: two and a half hours, never off stage, ageing Shaw from 40 to 80 through his correspondence with Churchill, but I did some careful listening to a lot of his radio tapes and I think I've got the cadence about right."

For somebody who started in the classical theatre, indeed made his stage debut with what was then the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre company (in 1949), Robert Hardy has had a somewhat unexpected career. It is hard to think, now, of any actor who has over the last twenty years done more consistently distinguished work in television. He has been in *Elizabeth R*, *Prince Albert* in *Edward VII*, *Malcolm Campbell* in *Speed King*, the eccentric hotelier in *Fothergill* (another of Hardy's many small-screen award-winners) and, on a more popular front, the Sigmund Freud character in *All Creatures Great and Small*, the chief trouble-shooter in *Mogul* and the German sergeant in *Manhunt*. In terms of sheer survival, and of the vast range of the character roles he has played, Hardy alone has been in British television of the 1960s and 1970s much longer than Guinness was to British films of

the 1940s. But it was not originally what he meant to do with his life as an actor, and had it not been for one blazing and career-shaping row with Peter Hall he would almost certainly have spent the best years of his life at either Stratford or the Vic.

The child of a military family, he started acting as an undergraduate at Oxford during the war, in the days when Nevill Coghill at that university and George Rylands at Cambridge were running what often seemed to be the academic extension-courses of RADA. With Richard Burton he went through Oxford, the Air Force in the last months of the war and then the Stratford of the late 1940s.

"We had in common a passionate desire to act, preferably in Shakespeare, and above all to redeem the notion of Prince Hal as hero. Olivier was our great idol. But he was playing *Hotspur* during that celebrated Vic season at the New he had thrown the whole balance of the *Henry IV* plays off-centre. They had become plays about Hotspur, and Hal was allowed to live only in his shadow. This seemed all wrong. Hardy did not get to play Hal until the 1955 season at the Vic, but he understudied Burton long before that and later played the role again for television in the first and second world war only successful BBC Shakespeare cycle, *An Age of Kings*.

"That was twenty years ago, and we had a much easier time than anyone trying to do Shakespeare on television today. In the first place there was an audience still hungry for the classics, and willing to accept a heightened language; now all they want is naturalism. Secondly we were much less beset by techniques and machinery; it was all new, and we learnt as we went along. Doing *Henry IV* we had to cut 35 minutes off the air during a live transmission, because we'd forgotten that it was the Queen Mother's sixtieth birthday and so we couldn't have our usual over-run. There was a sense in which the rug was always about to be pulled out from under us, but actors should be used to that and we survived."



More than that, they made the series against which all future television Shakespeare was to be judged and, usually, found wanting. But though Hardy was, by 1960, already experienced in television (suitably enough he had played *David Copperfield* in the BBC's first classic serial) his intention was to stay in the theatre. He had already done some distinguished work for Guthrie at the Vic, and made a rather less distinguished Broadway debut in an Emlyn Williams thriller.

A lovely old actor called Leo Carroll, one of those very dry Hollywood English who had remained like a preserved oakleaf under the pressures of America, decided on the first night that we both needed cheering up so he took me to the only genuine English oyster bar in America and fed me 12 oysters and I spent the whole of the first act throwing up all over the seat. So much for an American career, though I did also once briefly settle in California, for fundamentally romantic reasons, and try my luck in Hollywood where all I got was a bit in a Glenn Ford film and a lot of people thinking I must be queer because I sounded so English."

"I seem to have a television reputation as an impersonator of the famous..."

akin to relief that, while he was in California, Hardy got a summons from Guthrie who wanted him back at Stratford for the King of France opposite Edith Evans in a 1959 *All's Well*. That remarkable season he also played leading roles in the Charles Laughton *Leah*, the Olivier *Coriolanus* and the Tony Richardson *Midsummer Night's Dream*, and so when in the following year Hall took over from Byam Shaw at Stratford it seemed a pity that he could offer Hardy one of the first of the RSC's three-year contracts.

"Then, however, before we could start rehearsing, there was a major falling-out. I happened to overhear Hall at a lunch saying that he thought of me as one of the pillars of the middle of the company and somehow by then I thought that, considering the parts I'd been playing, I deserved a bit better than the middle; so I told him and Barton they should go back to Cambridge and complete their education and not surprisingly I've never worked for Peter Hall, or indeed at Stratford, from that day to this. I think I also said something about how much I disliked directors taking charge of entire companies; the theatre is about writers first and actors second and directors third, and they should never be allowed to transcend that unless they are of superhuman size like Guthrie. But how many are?"

Which was in its barest detail, how Stratford lost a leading actor and the BBC acquired one. Since then, Hardy has given his *Hamlet* for a summer theatre near Chicago, made West End appearances in *The Rehearsal* and *A Severed Head*, and concentrated the rest of his energies on minutely-researched television documentaries on Agincourt and (more recently) Gordon of Khartoum. He has also published the definitive military history of the longbow, and if they ever do find a forgotten sledge in his garden the lettering on it will doubtless spell out Hal rather than Rosebud. In the meantime, it would be nice if the RSC or the National Avoke to the classical talent they have allowed to slip out of their reach.

Sheridan Morley

Theatre

The Prince of Homburg

Cottesloe

In launching Heinrich von Heintz on the London public, the National Theatre has sensibly opted for a "new readers start here" studio production, rather than a main house military spectacular. In its time *The Prince of Homburg* has been a star exhibit, but in the Nazi repertoire and on Germany's postwar Marxist stage; and there is everything to be said for a quietly searching exploration of the text, uncoloured by any strong directorial viewpoint.

With no more than a sky-cloth and a few isolated furnishings, its narrative outline takes shape with elegant clarity on the Cottesloe stage. An hallucinatory first scene establishes the Prince's private dream of glory; then we see him acting it out by disobeying orders at the Battle of Fehrbellin and going out to defeat the Swedes, for which he is rewarded with a death sentence. Intercession by his beloved, Princess Natalie moves the Elector to offer a reprieve if the Prince himself considers the sentence one, just, an offer which the

Prince refuses, as it enables him to come to terms with his own death.

At this noble resolution, the Elector tears up the warrant, thus converting the individualist hero into a religious devotee to the State of Brandenburg.

"What comes over most forcibly in John Burgess's production is the sight of a protagonist who lives by an inhumanly exacting code of honour, breaking down in straightforward terror of death when he sees his grave being dug; and then, when he is given the chance of escape, refusing to seize it because he cannot find the right words for a letter of acceptance."

Patrick Drury's Prince has the contemplative look of a poetic outsider in a military society, but his delayed-action responses do nothing to tell you what is on his mind. Lindsay Duncan, as the Elector, is a Nazi in the sense of a generalised sympathy and distress without defining any personal tastes beyond an admiration for displays of male heroics. The Elector is extremely well played by Robert Urichart, as a sensibly approachable monarch, too confident of his own status ever to assert it.

Irving Wardle

Good Aldwych

Just as there appears to be no limit to the evil men can inflict on one another, there should be no limit to our attempts to understand. It is a fashion to suggest that Hitler is beyond comprehension, and that even such serious writers as George Steiner had best leave him alone. Certainly, any serious examination deserves an equally rigorous examination from an audience, but there is a deft, telling moment in C. P. Taylor's play *Good* which should damn the censorious instinct. A book-burning Nazi asks for a translation of a French title, "Remembering the Past", responds Halder, Taylor's protagonist. The Nazi's response is that that cannot be good, and he sends Proust into the bonfire.

Taylor's play, deservedly the first commercial presentation at the Aldwych since the departure of the RSC, has earned its transfer to the Aldwych as it sets out to show how a "good" liberal German professor becomes a good servant of the Nazis. There are flaws in the play, with a Hitler inseparably joined to Charlie Chaplin and an inarticulate Jewish intellectual as Halder's friend (given a smil-

ingly numb portrayal by Joe Bower), but the fault drops away in the light of Alan Howard's performance as Halder.

Thrusting banks of interrogation lights (designed by Uitz) keep the entire company of performers and musicians illuminated as Halder's private and political lives are exposed to scrutiny. The investigation is unexpectedly endowed with wit, harrowing in the circumstances, as Halder agrees to burn his beloved books and justifies each corrupting step into the maelstrom.

Having caught the Nazis' eyes with a novel favouring euthanasia, sprung from his frustration with his mother's senility, he becomes a Nazi theorist. Privately, he is haunted by an imaginary band playing music which elevates the personal conflicts. Mr Howard responds physically to the music, dividing himself balletically into the good servant who justifies each corrupting step into the maelstrom. Mr Howard offers in a performance of great honesty. Everything seems so reasonable and chilling when he is finally welcomed by a live band as a high official at the death camp of Auschwitz.

Ned Chaillet

Philharmonia/Previn

Festival Hall/Radio 3

Michael Berkeley has cultivated a colourful orchestral hybrid from plainchant roots in his *Gregorian Variations*, commissioned by Du Maurier for the Philharmonia Orchestra and given its premiere performance at the start of last Thursday's concert. They are variations not on a theme but on a style, the quotations from more than one plainchant being so diversified in rhythm, harmony and instrumentation by the resources of a symphony orchestra that a tone poem of a sort emerges.

Its varied episodes range from solemnity to syncopated swing, and from Copland to Mahler in certain associations of mood and character: prairie prospect to tavern waltz. However, there is also an individual personality developing in Berkeley's music which shows itself here in the unexpected twist of phrase or harmony just when the conventional ear is expecting some sustained development. There were moments when this had a swiftness and patchwork effect, but that may have been a matter of Andre Previn's conducting. He also had some difference of musical purpose with

Concerts

Margaret Price

which blenched the Four Last Songs by Richard Strauss just when the soprano was finding the sense of their phrasing. She was the first I have heard to read them from the score during performance, but whether from the idea of security or memory I could not say. What it did mean was a hindrance to close identification with the mood of each of the songs, which accordingly lost much of their rapture and not a little of their vocal beauty. The orchestra, whose leader, Christopher Warren-Green, phrased his gently curving solo in the third song, "Beim Schlafengehen", with a rare sensibility of expression, was alert to subtleties of shading in this music as they were in the wider and more varied range

London Handel Orchestra/Darlow

St George's, Hanover Square

It was enterprising to conclude this year's London Handel Festival with *L'Allegro, il Penseroso ed il Moderato*, the oratorio which Handel wrote in 1740 based on two poems by Milton and one, specially written for it, by Charles Jennens. Mindful of music's fleeting nature, Handel intermingled Milton's lines rather than setting each poem separately. Whether he was wise to add the final part, which reconciles the two moods by way of a moving duet, is a matter he himself debated. Some of his own later revivals did away with it.

In the simple alternation of moods which makes up the first two parts, Handel kept interest alive by using more than one singer for each of the three roles, a necessary device if the dramatic demands on stamens are not to be made. Every aria, too, is fresh, sometimes startlingly original, always melodically rewarding. Thus, for example, in Part I, *L'Allegro*,

of *A London Symphony* after the interval. Despite conducting often confined to marking the obvious, and which had difficulty in getting a straightforward, synchronized chord in several places, the playing, held Vaughan Williams's music in affection.

It was a performance that made less of the music's pictorial associations with the metropolis than others have done, but which felt the musical character no less expressively. For all its variations, it is music that still repays attention with enjoyment: for its majesty, its human sympathy, its cheerful good humour, and because a poet's ear for the still, small voice of nature is able to hear it no less clearly.

Noël Goodwin

sung coolly by Gillian Fisher, was accompanied by Roy Goodman's lavishly embellished solo, which was also representing a lark, and Il Penseroso (Emma Kirkby) followed with Liza Benozisk's flute enchantingly portraying Philomel, the nightingale.

Perhaps it was the sheer quality of her singing which seemed to elevate Miss Kirkby's music above the rest. True, she sounded overstrained in the terrifying coloratura of "But O! sad virgin", but where she was able to luxuriate in her melancholy she was peerless. In that nightingale aria, she floated the most sumptuous yet delicately controlled high A I have heard for a long time. Rogers Covey-Crump's contribution was also distinguished, and the other singers, Judith Rees, Margaret Cable and Stephen Varcoe, were all eminently adequate.

The chorus were small in both number and tone, occasionally flat, but always rhythmically alive in their relatively modest contributions. Denys Darlow conducted the London Handel Orchestra in a confident style, generally reflected by the playing.

Stephen Pettitt

Dance in London

Les Riches

Covent Garden

With all three principals new to their roles in last Thursday's performance of *Les Riches*, the greatest transformation was in the rag mazarurka. The previous week we saw the hostess played inconspicuously as a young Sandra Cockerly know better. In her reading, the lady is absolutely on top of things. She enjoys her pearls, her leather headress, her cigarette in its long holder. She is delighted to be surrounded in her own home by so many pretty young things of all sexes.

When the two young men come in and find her, she does not deny herself a smug look at their muscular bare legs, but by the time they approach her she is scrupulously looking the other way. She can afford to take her time; she knows very well

that they are going to sing dutifully, and perhaps beautifully, for their supper.

If only the other dancers had such grasp of their roles. Ravenna Tucker, who must be far the youngest dancer to play the servant in the blue coat, moves beautifully, her feet picking their way delicately across the floor; but she needs time and help to catch the role's sexual ambiguities, or its seductiveness.

Wayne Eagling makes a sensible shot at the leading beach boy; it is not his fault that English training leaves male dancers ill-prepared for such exposed, staccato solos. Lopsided turns in the air took the edge off his otherwise tough dancing, and all three men have to shuffle into position after their landings instead of coming down cleanly.

Eagling also danced well in *Shadowplay*, getting more securely into his new role there. The evening was completed by *The Rite of Spring*, better played than the Poulenc and Koechlin pieces, but unfortunately that is not saying much by concert standards.

When new, 20 years ago, the atomic imagery in Kenneth MacMillan's choreography (visible, alas, only from the cheaper seats upstairs) and in Sidney Nolan's designs made this production suit the mood of the time. MacMillan's fidgety choreography, all waving arms and bums, with jerky or shuffling steps, nowadays seems to live in a different world from Stravinsky's powerful music. Only Monica Mason's solos, near the end, as the chosen maiden, encourage a suspension of disbelief by their forcefulness.

John Percival

Kingdom of the Pagodas

Royal Theatre, Copenhagen

Quite a few British choreographers have mounted works for the Royal Danish Ballet since it first came out of its seclusion in 1954: Ashton, Cranko, Dolin, MacMillan, Rodgers, Tudor and (for *The Sleeping Beauty*) de Valois. Now Christopher Bruce and Richard Alston have joined that list; but, of them all, only Ashton with *Romeo and Juliet* in 1955 had created a ballet specially for Copenhagen until Alston made his new work, just premiered, *Dances from the Kingdom of the Pagodas*.

The title, less unwieldy in Danish (*Danse fra Pagodernes rige*), tells it all: Alston has turned to the marvellous score which Britten wrote for John Cranko, and which has been shamefully neglected since, but he has taken only the splendid diversions from the last act of the original work and has used it for a plotless ballet.

Surprisingly, with the ringing fanfare that commands attention, the curtain rises on a stage apparently too cluttered to allow much dancing. Antony McDonald's setting is ingenious: three structures like the tiered roofs of pagodas, mounted on a frame and separated by long banners. Most of the frame lifts, like a deckchair opening, to make a low ceiling for the opening dance, then higher again to provide a shining background to the main scene.

Large-scale success for Alston



Rhapsodic: Lis Jeppesen and Bjarne Hecht

McDonald has dressed the cast in colourful clothes with slight suggestions of oriental men and women alike wear tight trousers; they have sashes around their waists, sleeves and high collars to their jackets, and the women wear skirts too. The band which each woman wears around her head also has a faintly eastern effect, but half the young women in Copenhagen are wearing such headbands too, so the look of the dancers is exotic without being bizarre.

Alston's choreography starts with a prelude which gradually brings on all the cast. Their evolutions are solemn and slightly mysterious. Thereafter, the mood becomes joyous, ending in a more serious but still very affirmative finale for which the leading couple put on what might be coronation or wedding robes, while all the others pay them homage.

taken by Annemarie Dybal. Their duets and solos come mainly in the first half of the ballet, to music originally used by soloists, pairs or trios from the *Pas de six* cast (Alston uses a sextet among his dancers but makes them less prominent than Cranko did).

The original *Pas de deux* music goes to the younger couple, who are introduced simply as part of a group of dancers for the gavotte and become separated from the others almost like an afterthought. Once they have the stage to themselves, however, their duet has a meltingly rhapsodic quality which Lis Jeppesen and Bjarne Hecht make the most of. They are regarded as two of the most gifted among the younger Danish dancers, with justification.

This is the first time that Alston has worked with a classical ballet company, but for some time his choreography has been edging in a more classical direction, and he makes the transition with flying colours. The women dance on point, the men use the range of virtuosity available in ballet, and the result is exhilarating.

Kingdom of the Pagodas is a great stride forward for Alston, showing that he can work on a scale and in a style he has not tackled before. How odd that it should need a foreign company to spot his potential and take the risk; and how sad that so enjoyable a work, to the only score written by Britten exclusively for dancing, should not be in a British repertory. Peter Ernst Lassen conducted with sympathetic care.

John Percival

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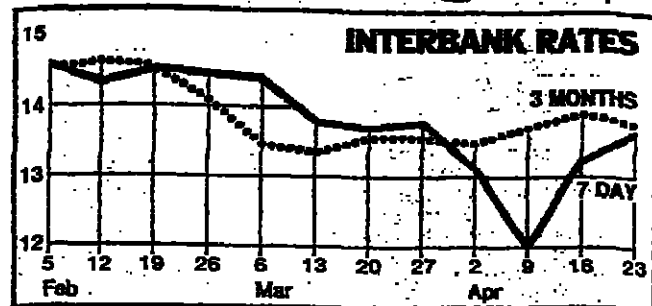
ECONOMIC

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BUSINESS NEWS

Interest rates gloom



Interest rates could rise sharply if the latest developments in the south Atlantic lead to a run on sterling. Without the Falklands shadow, interest rates would almost certainly have continued downward, providing a further cut in bank base rates. Ironically, there could be additional help for United Kingdom interest rates now from the United States after the better than expected money supply figures released last Friday.

Division over IMF role

Western industrial nations are seriously divided over the amount of financial muscle that the International Monetary Fund should be given to deficit nations in the event of a Pan's meeting of the IMF for senior officials. The United States called for the IMF to return to being a true lender of last resort. Other nations wanted an increase in quotas, in order to boost the funds lending capacity.

Strike over Redpath sale

Workers at Redpath Dorman Long, British Steel's structural engineering subsidiary, are to stage a one-day strike today in protest at the BSC's decision to sell the company for £10m to Trafalgar House. Senior management from RDP who are members of the Steel Industry Management Association and are working out an employee buy-out scheme, will be complaining to the Office of Fair Trading that the sale is against the public interest.

Builders see recovery signs

British builders are noticing the first tentative signs of a modest recovery according to the National Federation of Building Trades Employers' annual report. The report says that the early months of 1982 have brought signs not only that the decline in national output was bottoming out, but also, that interest rates were on a firm downward path.

Video trials

British Telecom today begins engineering trials of an international video conferencing service. BT will use the European Orbital Test Satellite to send video messages to the French and Italian telecommunications authorities. A full trial of the service with business customers is expected this year.

THE WEEK AHEAD
Blue Circle boost

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 567.1
FT 100 67.61
FT All Share 326.70
Bargains 15,415
Friday's close

Blue Circle shares have been a weak market in recent months but should pick up when the cement group reports a significant upturn in profits during 1981 with results due on Wednesday.

There should be a modest advance at Tarmac with tomorrow's final, but among the building contractors Geo. Wimpey, the largest group in the sector, is likely to reflect the depressed state of the construction industry with its figures on Thursday.

In the first half of 1981 Blue Circle saw United Kingdom profits fall by 19 per cent, despite a cement volume fall of 20 per cent, but overseas earnings climbed 154 per cent due to a particularly strong performance in Chile. With associates' profits up 49 per cent this produced a 75 per cent advance in pretax profits to £50.9m.

Low volume sales of cement in the United Kingdom and a declining rate of price increases will continue to be offset by

ECONOMIC VIEW

News of British military action in the South Atlantic yesterday could well hit the pound when financial markets open today, forcing the authorities to decide whether to use Britain's reserves on a big scale to support the currency or to jack up interest rates, with the damaging consequences that may have on industry.

With all eyes on the Falklands, economic news this week will inevitably be of secondary interest. Out today are figures for industrial investment for the fourth quarter of last year, which will reveal how much pension funds and others were investing overseas. On Tuesday come the April unemployment figures.

These could show a small fall from the March total of 2.99 million because of seasonal factors. Figures for strikes and total employment are published by the Department of Employment on Wednesday.

DIARY

Today: EEC finance ministers meeting, Brussels.
Tomorrow: "Think British" conference, Regent Crest Hotel, London.
Wednesday: British Rail annual report. Mr Norman Tabbutt, Employment Secretary, addresses Prime League, Caxton Hall, London. Overseas travel and tourism figures (January/February).
Thursday: Energy trends figures. Friday: Wales TUC conference opens. Llandudno. Car and commercial vehicle production figures (March).

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: Nikkei Dow Jones Index 7,333.94
Hong Kong: Hang Seng Index 1,235.84

Setback for nuclear power plans

By Michael Priest

New Central Electricity Generating Board forecasts of United Kingdom power demand to the end of the century are so low as to challenge the need for major additions to generating capacity over the next two decades. The figures are particularly damaging to the case for a large nuclear construction programme. The forecasts, which will be published next month, conclude that on the most optimistic assumptions for economic growth, electricity demand will expand by an average of 2 per cent a year. This is less than half the average increase during the 1970's.

At the opposite end of the CEB's range of five forecasts is the assumption of a static or shrinking economy, which would mean contraction in electricity demand. The midrange forecast that demand will go up by about 1 per cent a year is likely to be used by the Electricity Council's medium-term development plan. The plan is published annually in June and looks seven years ahead.

These projections of low demands come at a tricky time for the CEB, which is preparing evidence for the inquiry next January into the construction of the Sizewell B nuclear power station in Suffolk. Whatever the outcome of the inquiry, the new evidence is likely to shift some emphasis from how much capacity is needed to the merits of different kinds of power. The high construction costs of nuclear stations could count decisively.

MPs favour Budget procedure reforms

By Our Economics Staff

The influential Treasury Select Committee of MPs is about to come down firmly in favour of publishing a draft Budget, containing proposals on both tax and public spending, in December each year. This radical reform of Budget procedure would enable MPs to discuss proposals before the Chancellor presented his final Budget to Parliament in the spring.

The Select Committee meets today to discuss its draft report on the subject, and the final version is likely to be published early in June. The report follows recommendations made two years ago by an independent committee chaired by the late Lord Armstrong under the aegis of the Institute for Fiscal Studies.

Criticism of the way in which Budget decisions are made and presented has been growing in recent years. These criticisms have focused chiefly on the secrecy surrounding Budget preparations and the separation

of decisions on taxation from those on government spending. Decisions on spending are taken first, in the autumn, after much haggling between Treasury and spending ministers. How the plans are to be financed is decided later, in the spring budget, traditionally by the Chancellor and the Prime Minister alone. This prevents the plans being considered and adjusted together.

Present procedures also deny MPs the opportunity to debate Budget proposals and the detail of spending plans until the final decisions have already been made.

The Treasury has made clear its opposition to the notion of a draft Budget, which it views as administratively impracticable and unnecessary. But members of the Select Committee are hopeful that their report will lay the foundation for eventual reform, even though this may take some years to come about.

Pioneers Co-operative in merger plan

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

The Rochdale-based Pioneers Co-operative Society, promoters of the Co-op movement, will disappear after 138 years trading, under a merger plan. The decision lies with the members of the Pioneers and the Stockport-based Northwest Society. Boards of both societies are recommending the merger which would create a £120m turnover society putting it among the top half dozen in the movement. The historic link would not be completely severed: the new society would be called the Northwest Pioneers.

The planned merger is yet another commentary on the fortunes of about 170 co-operative retail societies. The movement has seen its market share depleted in recent years because of the rise in popularity of supermarkets. Recession has also hit the Pioneers in the same way as it has many other societies. Though a marginal 1980 loss was due to a slight profit in 1981, the turnover which has since been restricted by problems at Oldham.

Talks with Gulf Oil at crucial stage
Kuwait set to buy European refineries

By Jonathan Davis, Energy Correspondent

Gulf Oil, one of the world's largest oil companies, is pressing ahead with negotiations to sell the bulk of its European refining and marketing business to Kuwait. The negotiations, which would involve the sale of at least 75 per cent of the company's European downstream oil activities to Kuwait's state oil corporation, are believed to be at a crucial stage, even though the two sides have still to agree on the issue of price.

The talks, which were publicly acknowledged earlier this year by Gulf after months of speculation, were called off at one stage.

The deal, which would probably be worth about £1,000m, would be an important development in the history of the oil industry. It would involve one of the world's leading oil companies pulling out of one of the main world markets in direct response to the chronic problem of refinery overcapacity, which has cost most oil companies millions of pounds in losses over the last two years.

It would also lead to a further step in the leading Middle East oil producers' attempt to extend their operations from production to supply and distribution. Gulf has refining and marketing interests in several European countries, including Britain, Switzerland, Italy, The Netherlands and Denmark. Its share of the oil products market ranges from about 3 per cent in Britain to nearly 10 per cent in Denmark. The European industry as a whole is suffering from 40 per cent over capacity.

In its 1981 annual report, just published, Gulf discloses that it has already sold a third of its European assets since 1977, raising \$200 million (about £135m). Disposal include its operations in France, Spain, Norway, northern Sweden and north-eastern England.

The company says its refineries in Europe operated at 46 per cent of capacity last year, compared with 62 per cent the year before. This years capacity is expected to be pared by more than 40 per cent, allowing it to raise its refinery utilization rate to about 80 per cent.

Mr James E. Lee, Gulf chairman, says that the company has decided to pursue two main strategies, including concentrating on building up its North American oil and gas reserves and cutting costs on its unprofitable downstream activities. It is not clear whether the group's British operations, which include a refinery at Milford Haven, in South Wales are included in the planned deal with the Kuwaitis, but the Kuwaitis would like to acquire them.

Mr Hutchcraft said the corporation's strategy for the

closure of Anglesey Aluminium after British Aluminium's decision to shut its Invergoron smelter in the Scottish Highlands would wipe out two thirds of the country's aluminium producing capability leaving only Alcan's 120,000 tonnes a year plant at Lymouth in Northumberland.

Government ministers are aware that if Anglesey collapsed Britain would once again become a net importer of aluminium which, because of its aerospace and defence equipment applications is regarded by many countries as a matter of strategic importance.

The committee, which meets each month and occasionally in emergency session, was established in 1976 after recommendations of the Partridge-Plowden report on the CBI's aims and organisation. Sir Raymond, who retires from the presidency next month, said the 1982 committee's work had been invaluable.

The committee is led by Sir Raymond, Sir Campbell Fraser, deputy president, and Sir Terence Beckett, the director general. It includes the chairman of other CBI committees: Sir John Read (finance and general purposes); Mr Ronnie Utiger (economic and financial policy); Mr Astley Whitall (employment policy); Sir Austin Pearce (industrial policy); Mr Derek Kingsbury (overseas); Mr John Raisman (Europe); Mr George Duncan (companies); Sir Richard Cave (unemployment steering group); and Mr Jeremy Pope (smaller firms).

The chairman of companies are: Sir Michael Paravas (BTL); Sir Arnold Hall (Hawker Siddeley); Mr John Harvey-Jones (ICI); Mr Emmanuel Kaye (Lansing Bagnall); Sir Alex Jarratt (Reed International); Sir David Orr (Unilever); Mr Derek Bell (Bass); Sir Kenneth Corfield (STC); Lord Robens (Johnson Matthey); Mr Peter Walters (BP); and Sir John Sainsbury (Sainsbury's).

Sir Raymond Pannock, 'outstanding businessman'.

Second aluminium plant at risk

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

Another British aluminium smelter, the 112,000 tonnes a year Anglesey Aluminium plant, will be in jeopardy and 1,000 jobs put at risk if its United States owners are unable to negotiate a cheap power contract within the next few months.

Aluminium and Chemical Corporation, the California-based group which has a two-thirds stake in the smelter, has given the clearest hint yet that it regards high electricity prices as the main threat to the plant's future.

"The power agreement for Anglesey, in Wales, if left alone, will trigger much higher power costs in the future and this must be resolved," Mr Steve Hutchcraft, Kaiser's vice president and general manager in charge of aluminium, said in New York.

Closure of Anglesey Aluminium after British Aluminium's decision to shut its Invergoron smelter in the Scottish Highlands would wipe out two thirds of the country's aluminium producing capability leaving only Alcan's 120,000 tonnes a year plant at Lymouth in Northumberland.

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Mr Hutchcraft said the corporation's strategy for the



Interior of the plant, threatened by high power costs.

Although closure is not an immediate prospect for Anglesey, Kaiser must now be considering a review of its holding in the company (the other third is held by Rio Tinto Zinc) if, as seems likely, an agreement to hold down power charges is not reached with the Central Electricity Generating Board.

Mr Hutchcraft said the corporation's strategy for the

1980s was to develop an aluminium business that was more selective, more competitive and more profitable. "We also concluded that only those plants that show promise of being low-cost producers should be retained."

The three British smelters were built in the late 1960s as part of Mr Harold Wilson's (then Prime Minister) "white heat of technology" programme, and were given favourable terms on electricity costs that have ever since provoked controversy.

British Aluminium was to get cheap power in return for paying part of the construction costs of the Hunterston B nuclear power station in Scotland, while Anglesey's charges were to be based on the generation costs of the Dungeness B station in Kent.

But continuous delays in implementing Britain's nuclear programme which have resulted in increases in costs have thrown the aluminium companies' original calculations into disarray and have cost the generating boards dearly. The CEB has estimated that the original Anglesey contract has cost it more than £200m.

Talks between Kaiser and the CEB could begin in earnest in the next few weeks when Dungeness B finally starts to produce electricity 10 years late and at a capital cost reckoned to be five times the original £90m estimate.

HAWKER SIDDELEY GROUP

1981 RESULTS

	1981 £m	1980 £m
Sales	1,395	1,205
Trading profit	127.5	110.8
Profit before tax	121.1	113.0
Profit after tax & minority interests	79.3	69.6
Earnings per ordinary share	40.1	35.2
Dividends per ordinary share		
First Interim	3.7p	3.0p
Recommended Final	5.6p	5.2p

The 1981 Report will be published in late May 1982, when copies will be available from the Secretary.

HAWKER SIDDELEY GROUP PLC
18 St James's Square, London SW1Y 4LJ.

McKechnie Brothers

The improvement in our trading profit compared with the corresponding period last year was due mainly to an excellent first half from New Zealand and to better results from the U.K., with the exception of the Chemicals Division where trading conditions continue to be very difficult. Good performances were also recorded by most of our associates overseas but the South African stock holding operations (in which we now have a reduced share) felt the effects of a levelling off in activity. We do not expect any rapid changes in the U.K. where we hope to maintain a slow advance sufficient to counteract any effects of a slackening of demand overseas.

Dr. J. M. Butler, Chairman

Interim Results - unaudited	Half-year ended 31st January	Year ended 31st July
	1982	1981
Sales	£'000	£'000
Operating Profit	73,510	60,353
Share of Profits of Associates	3,459	2,247
Net Profit	2,838	3,251
Extraordinary items	3,174	1,671
Ordinary Dividend	1,135	27
Earnings per Ordinary Share	995	3,615
	6.2p	6.8p

Notes: (1) Interim dividend of 2.00p (1981 2.00p) per Ordinary Share making a gross equivalent of (2.85714p (1981 2.85714p)).
(2) The appreciation on metal assets not covered by sales contracts, and not taken into account in this Statement, amounts to £183,000 after taxation. Any adjustment required at 31st July, 1982 will be dealt with as usual by transfer to or from Stock Reserve.
(3) Extraordinary items relate principally to a surplus arising on reorganisation of South African associates on 1st July, 1981.

McKechnie Brothers plc ALDRIDGE, WALSALL WS9 8DS

MARKETS ROUND-UP

Wall St rally as inflation falls

The stock market continued to rally last week, climbing to 862.16 to reach a 12-week high. The Dow Jones Industrial Average rose 18.74 points for the week, all these gains coming on Thursday and Friday.

Trading was touched off by the announcement on Friday morning that the consumer price index for March dropped 0.3 per cent, the first monthly decline since August 1981. When inflation drops, it is believed that interest rates will follow, making stocks a better investment than fixed income security.

The rally marked the sixth week in a row that the Dow had advanced, the first time since autumn 1972 that the market has risen in so many consecutive weeks. The market hit a 23-month low on March 8 when the Dow sank to 795.47.

The recovery has been led by energy stocks, strengthened by the firming of oil prices. Technology, drug and utility issues also gained. Most trading was done by large institutions. On Friday advances outnumbered declines by 1,042 to 456 and 1,318 blocks of 10,000 or more shares were traded. This number of trades is topped only by those in January 1981, when Joseph Granville, a prominent market advisor, told his clients to sell.

Forecasts are that the rally will continue to the end of the summer.

JOHANNESBURG

Brewery guide

A guide to the fortunes of South African Breweries, is expected this week when two of its major subsidiaries, Amstel, the furniture, clothing and shoe retailer, and OK Bazaars, the country's biggest department store chain, published their results. Satisfactory increases in earnings are expected in both cases, even though South Africa's Economic Boom is over and some experts are predicting recession by 1983.

Thus the market is anticipating that SAB's overall results will be good, particularly in its beer division — there is a shortage of it in the Johannesburg area after a strike by brewery workers although Southern Sun, the hotel chain, is producing some problems.

Meanwhile, the market has been digesting the March quarter gold mine quarterlies which have contained the expected shocks, or worse in some cases. Gencor Mines showed a big drop in earnings and in the JCI Group, Western Areas revealed that its breakeven price is \$372. Randfontein, however, which some analysts feel has been underpriced, produced better than expected results. Anglo American's Orange Free State mines performed

as well as could be expected, the market believes, and among its Transvaal mines, Elandsrand looked quite good after moving into better grade areas. Anglovaal's Harties and ET Cons were hit by big earnings drops. Another shock result was Anamint, with an interim dividend of 440 cents (630 cents) making a final of 700 cents (890).

HONGKONG

Sudden boost

The market broke its dull trading rising 53 points on higher turnover. The Hang Seng index closed at 1236 HK\$82m (about £24m) sharply up on Monday's very poor HK\$82m (£7.66m). The major boost was the speculation that property magnate Li Ka Shing has secured a US\$200m (about £12m) loan, first appearing in the market late on Tuesday, the reports prompted overnight buying in London.

Most brokers wonder what Li wants to do with the extra cash, when his quoted vehicle, Cheung Kong, already has HK\$2,000m (£186.91m) cash on book.

One theory is that this might mark the long awaited takeover of Hutchinson Whampoa, of which Cheung Kong already holds more than 40 per cent. Whatever the speculation the market was ripe for a

rally in the light of a stronger Wall Street.

MALAYSIA

Poll buoyancy

The Malaysian elections which returned some leading Chinese businessmen to victory, buoyed the Malaysian Holdings listed on the Singapore exchange, including Mui, Multi-purpose Holdings, Bandar Raya and Malaysian Resources.

The market finished the week with a close of 763.72, a marginal gain of only 0.52 on the previous day but a 20.03 gain on the previous week's closing figure.

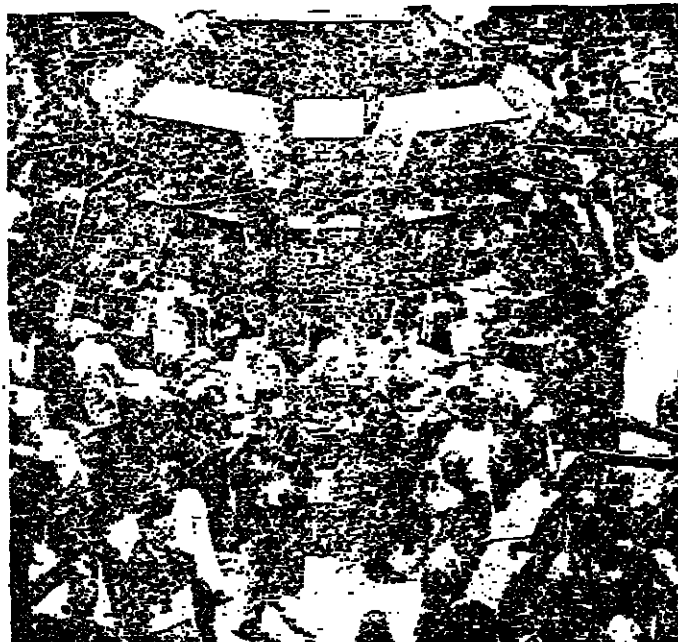
The announcement last week that on June 1, the controversial "immediate delivery trading rules," will be lifted was welcomed by all, especially foreign based brokers who now have enough time to effect foreign deliveries.

FRANKFURT

War-weary

West German stock markets have decided to shake off worries about war in the South Atlantic — for the time being at least.

The Commerzbank index posted a useful gain of around 10 points last week as investors drew encouragement from falling capital market interest rates and began to hope for signs of an



New York stock exchange: 12-week high

economic revival in Germany. Technical factors played a part in the upturn. Institutional selling the previous week on worries about the Falklands and the Middle East had reduced the amount of stock overhanging the market so that a revival of buying interest was rewarded with an upsurge of prices.

Higher oil prices helped the engineering and construction sectors which had been neglected in recent weeks on fears that lucrative Opec orders would soon be a thing of the past. The rally in gold prices also gave some support to Degussa, the German gold smelter, which had warned of a possible dividend cut this year.

Even though the Bundesbank decided to keep its special lombard rate at 9.5

per cent, stores, banks and motors — all of which can be expected to profit from lower interest rates — attracted buyers.

Argentine crude oil production fell 2.6 per cent in March to 15.11 million barrels compared with a year earlier. Production in the first quarter totalled 43.89 million barrels, compared with 45.05 million barrels in the same 1981 period.

Renault will lay off 3,500 workers at its car plant in Buenos Aires for the whole of next week. Volkswagen has sacked 500 workers and laid off another 1,200 while Ford will lay off 2,500 for five out of the next 15 days. These moves follow a further sharp drop in sales last month and this month.

CAPITAL MARKETS

Swiss broking action baffles gold market

Swiss banks and gold have always been synonymous. But the Swiss no longer dominate the gold market, not even the mystery-shrouded Russian gold business. While this has been a gradual process, the international gold trading community was amazed on Friday by a new Swiss move in the market which seemed to indicate that the Zurich banks have lost their way.

The three Zurich gold pool banks — Union Bank of Switzerland, Swiss Bank Corporation and Credit Suisse — are to set up a precious metals brokerage company with a registered office in Zurich.

Unless they have some deeply hidden and clever plan that none of us can understand, we just cannot fathom what they are up to. How can a brokerage company help them to bring up all sorts of conflict of interest between brokers and principals. In London the lines are clearly defined, whereas, here, customers are going to be wary of doing business if

Hongkong's expansion in the gold market started the pressure on the Swiss banks. That was followed by the growth of business in New York and the recovery of confidence in London (which had originally been lost in the quarrel with South Africa). The London gold futures market, which opened last week, may also stimulate more bullion trading in London.

Swiss banks have traditionally been "long" of gold. In the great crash, as gold came

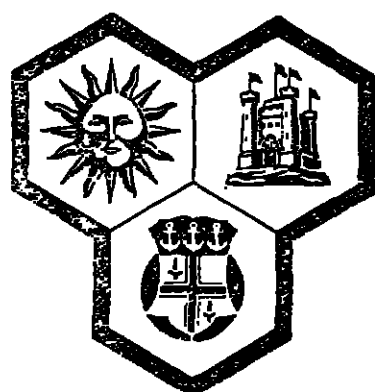
tumbling down from \$850, the banks and their customers lost a lot of money, as they were caught with large stocks and positions. Heads rolled, investment and trading strategies became very conservative, and the younger traders left to go to the thriving new centres. Zurich was no longer competitive.

What the Swiss need to do, say dealers in the other centres, is appoint new top managers and given them greater freedom to trade and give advice. It is no good merely starting offices in the new centres — New York, Hong Kong and London are all areas in which the Swiss banks have opened for business. The criticism is that the staff are either not allowed to develop, or just do not have the flair to pull back lost business in Russia, the Middle East and South Africa.

Zurich believed its supremacy was damaged by a turnover tax on physical transactions — a Swiss specialisation in the bullion market — about two years ago. The Swiss authorities' decision to exempt central bank transactions, taken a few months ago, was seen as a sign of their growing concern at the loss of gold business.

Mr Hubert Baschnagel, Swiss Bank Corporation director said the new brokerage firm, which will open later this summer, will be in a position to quote very narrow prices. But it will not be in the gold futures market.

Sally White



SUN ALLIANCE INSURANCE GROUP

Comments by the Chairman - Lord Aldington

We have to report a large underwriting loss. Despite this our total profit before tax amounted to £70.9m compared with £69.3m in 1980 and, after tax and minority interests, net earnings were 84.8p per share compared with 83.6p per share in the previous year.

I referred last year to the deteriorating underwriting conditions in most parts of the world. Indeed, this deterioration has continued and in some places intensified. The buoyancy of investment income has been taken by some to be a proper compensation for underwriting losses. High interest rates consequent upon high and continuing inflation certainly go some way to meeting the higher cost of claims caused by the same inflation. But they do not go the whole way and in our opinion an insurance company like Sun Alliance & London must continue to set itself a target of an underwriting profit in normal times.

The truth is that it is not only the increased costs and prices consequent upon inflation or the reluctance of people to increase sums insured in line with inflation which have caused the underwriting losses. All over the world new risks are being underwritten at rates which allow nothing for the inevitable uncertainty of their eventual cost.

Furthermore, claims in many established classes of insurance are much higher than were expected and judicial awards of compensation for personal injury have grown enormously. In many countries the incidence of arson, criminal damage and burglary has increased greatly. In these circumstances it is madness for underwriters to compete with each other for business at inadequate rates of premium. Moreover, at times of recession as now, the amount of business on offer is not expanding and in some areas is decreasing. The excessive capacity in the market to which I have referred before presents responsible underwriters with a serious challenge: the maintenance of a share of the market cannot be secured without accepting too low rates of premium. But those who are seeking to increase their share of the market at such times by driving the rates of premium catastrophically downwards are, I believe, causing enormous damage to the market, the insuring public and, of course, themselves.

The continuing deterioration in the reinsurance market is a matter of great concern to the entire world-wide insurance community. Increasingly, the credibility of a growing part of the excessive reinsurance capacity is being questioned and there are serious doubts whether, in the event of a major catastrophe, some claims by ceding insurers upon reinsurers would be met.

Operations

Against this background our own results, although disappointing to us, might have been worse.

Much of our international business was unprofitable with considerable underwriting losses in Canada and the U.S.A. and, for the second year, disastrous losses in Australia. Reinsurance business also deteriorated markedly.

Against this, our home business improved, helped by the mild winter of 1980/1981 and also by releases from outstanding loss reserves in the liability classes relating to earlier years. Just before Christmas, however, this improvement largely disappeared when severe winter weather cost us some £4.4m in the U.K. alone.

The 1979 Marine and Aviation year now closed was unprofitable and the subsequent open years are not running as well as we should like. Nevertheless, our reserves in the Fund remain adequate and no transfer from Profit and Loss Account was needed.

Our Life Division has again produced a larger surplus. Their reorganisation and vigorous marketing has steadily improved their share of the market in recent years. In 1981 the unit-linked funds showed outstanding investment results.

Investment income in the general funds increased encouragingly from £81.5m to £101.1m, a rate of growth of 24% or, eliminating the effects of exchange movements, 18%.

In addition, there was a further increase in the general funds in the surplus of market over book values of our investments with a rise of £60m to £390m. This gain is not reflected in our Profit and Loss Account.

Dividend

The Directors have resolved to declare a total dividend of 43p per share — an increase of 30.3% over that paid for 1980. An interim dividend of 19.5p per share was paid in January last and the final dividend of 23.5p will be paid on 5th July next.

The increased dividend leaves some £20.6m to be retained in the business and our solvency margin at 92% provides a springboard for expansion when we see profitable opportunities.

During many of these last ten years dividend restraint has been in force but your Board has always been keenly conscious of the effect of inflation on the shareholders' income. Despite somewhat disappointing results we are pleased to be able, for the third successive year, to declare increased dividends that more than match the year's rate of inflation and thus restore to shareholders in real terms the dividend level paid in earlier years.

Outlook

Looking ahead, we do not expect that the excessive competition in insurance markets will be eliminated in the near future. Nor can we expect a sharp increase in world economic activity in 1982. The difficulties in the insurance market we have seen overseas in the past few years have already spread into the United Kingdom. We shall certainly continue to do our best to discourage severe rate cutting and we have taken steps to reduce escalating expenses by a major reorganisation of our home business started in the middle of 1981.

No one can be unmindful of the very bad weather which we had in January following that in December to which I have already referred. The claims on us from the January weather are proving considerably more costly than those in December, but as a result of the steps we have taken in the last few years to strengthen our Personal account we are in a much better position to face the year. Other steps we have taken at home and overseas will strengthen our defences against the difficult conditions throughout our market.

The problems which confront us and insurers generally are serious and sometimes daunting — a real test of management's nerve and skill.

Summary of Results

	1981 £m	1980 £m
Premium Income		
General Insurance	703.6	599.2
Long-term Insurance	173.3	143.3
	876.9	742.5
General Insurance Underwriting Result	(36.8)	(18.4)
Long-term Insurance Profits	6.1	5.4
Investment Income	101.1	81.5
Other Income	0.5	0.8
Profit before Taxation	70.9	69.3
Taxation	28.7	27.8
Profit after Taxation	42.2	41.5
Minority Interests	0.4	0.3
Profit attributable to Shareholders	41.8	41.2
Dividend	21.2	16.3
Profit Retained	20.6	24.9
Earnings per Share	84.8p	83.6p
Dividend per Share	43.0p	33.0p

The Annual General Meeting of Sun Alliance and London Insurance plc will be held on 26th May, 1982 at the Head Office, Bartholomew Lane, London EC2N 2AB.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr Anthony Metherell has been appointed chairman of James Walker Goldsmith & Silversmith. Due to ill health Mr Gerald Sanders has retired as chairman but remains a director.

The new production director of Horsell Graphic Industries is Mr Christopher Phillips.

Mr John Eggar has been appointed as a non-executive director of JCB Sales. Mr Eggar is chairman and chief executive of Jaguar Cars.

Mr Leslie Randall is appointed general manager of Usher-Walker and has been elected to the board.

Mr Sidney Marks has been elected president of M.Y. Dart. Mr Paul Marks has been appointed chairman in place of Mr Marks, who will remain a non-executive director of the company.

Brostrom Cargo (UK) has Mr Ron Corderoy deputy managing director. He continues as administration manager of the Brostrom (UK) group of companies including Brostrom Cargo (UK), Neptun and Travel Lloyd.

STICK THIS ON YOUR WINDSCREEN AND READ IT EVERY TIME YOU PAY THE PETROL ATTENDANT

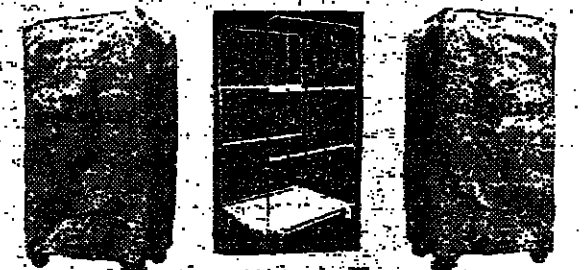
I'VE JUST SPENT
£10 ON PETROL
I NEED ONLY
HAVE SPENT £7
ON LP GAS.

Just now you could have saved £3.
By filling up with LP Gas at around £3 a gallon.
Your local Dual-Fuel Systems LP Gas conversion specialist can have your car or commercial vehicle back on the road in a day ready to give you the choice of LP Gas or petrol. At the flick of a switch.
Wouldn't you like to part with less money for a change?
Dual-Fuel Systems is Britain's No. 1 LP Gas conversion specialist.
Ring today for your free copy of our comprehensive brochure and the address of your nearest conversion centre.



See us on Stand 37 at the Fleet Motor Show, Wembley
TELEPHONE: 01450 9911
HEAD OFFICE, UNIT 5, 1000 NORTH CIRCULAR ROAD, LONDON NW2 2LP

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BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

INTERNATIONAL



How a'Court caught the City on the hop

ARGENTINA
The New York Federal Reserve's supply of \$100 notes to banks has doubled, mostly for transport to Argentina.

Peso deposits in Argentine banks have fallen about 5 per cent since the country seized the Falkland Islands and these would normally be exchanged for dollars by depositors. But the Government banned sales of foreign currency and gold on the day the Falklands were taken.

A Fed spokesman said levels of supply to banks in the New York area are not much higher than at other times of international tension.

UNITED STATES
The current oil glut should not fall on western countries under a false sense of security, Mr Dennis O'Brien, deputy assistant secretary for international affairs at the energy department, said.

The aluminum industry, appears on the verge of seeking union help in trimming its costs. "I would suppose the companies are laying the cards on the table, and the unions know that the industry is in a terrible shape," industry analyst Mr George Cleaver of Merrill Lynch Company in New York said.

JAPAN
Toray Industries is to produce and market polyethylene terephthalate in France under a joint agreement with Société Nationale Elf Aquitaine. The concern will be 35 per cent owned by Toray and 65 per cent by the French partner.

NORWAY
Norway has decided to open six new blocks off its northern shores for oil exploration.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	13%
Barclays	13%
BCCI	13%
Consolidated Crds	13%
C. Hoare & Co	13%
Lloyds Bank	13%
Midland Bank	13%
Nat Westminster	13%
TSB	13%
Williams & Glyn's	13%

* 7 day deposit on basis of £10,000 up to £50,000 10% £50,000 and over 11%.

It is never easy for a financial community whose rules of behaviour are based on years of experience to accept that an outsider has surprised them with a new way of making a takeover bid.

But Australian lawyer Robert Holmes a'Court's "two-tier takeover", which has effectively won control of Associated Communications Corporation, has caught the City unawares. And the feeling is that it will never be allowed to happen again.

His double-decker offer is a simple idea. The tempting top deck is pitched at a sufficiently high price to scare off any rivals, but with it go conditions rarely met in any takeover battle. If the number of acceptances fall short of these conditions within a specified time, then shareholders are left holding the less attractive lower deck, which because counter-bidders had been scared off is the price they would be likely to receive for their shares.

Few are carping about the precise terms of Mr Holmes a'Court's offer. He is likely to pay the higher 110p a share price rather than the 95p offered on the lower tier. But that may be because the takeover panel insisted they a fortnight's notice be given before the 110p offer was closed and because of the high number of professional investors holding ACC shares

Philip Robinson examines the controversial "two-tier" bid for Associated Communications Corporation and predicts that it is unlikely to be allowed to happen again.

who understand the complexities of offer documents. What is exercising the minds of the merchant bankers — who earn their fees thinking up bright new ideas on how to attack and defend in bid battles — is the potential danger of the two-tier offer.

Their objections stem from the premise that the City code on takeovers and mergers is being broken in spirit. It was set up 14 years ago to stop preferential treatment for shareholders to bring order to bids, and to make as simple as possible the decision whether to accept or reject a bid.

But the crucial point of any two-tier offer is at what point the higher price ceases to be available. Had the panel not imposed the need for 14 days' notice of it being withdrawn in the ACC battle, Mr Holmes a'Court could have ended up paying 95p a share.

If his pattern is followed, for the higher of two prices to be paid in a bid, holders of 90 per cent of the shares must accept by the first closing date — normally 21

days after the posting of the offer document. It is extremely rare for the 90 per cent to be attained in that time. Professional investors are renowned for waiting almost to the last minute before they accept.

Had the 14-day rule not been there, Mr Holmes a'Court could have stated that the offer had not been met and, with the more than 50 per cent of acceptances which he had at that time, declared himself the new owner at the 95p level.

In approving which first bid the panel, which first defined the higher price as being in the same class as a cash alternative, later changed its mind and viewed it as an "alternative offer". This appears to be another precedent.

The two-tier bid also does not seem to bear examination when rule 35 of the code is applied. That says that when an offer fails to become unconditional in all respects within the offer period or is withdrawn, no further bid or share-buying shall be made within 12 months of the final closing date.

In circumstances where the higher offer fails, to give the bidder the chance of a second bite of the cherry immediately, it would appear to infringe this section of the code.

Mr Holmes a'Court's intention with ACC was quite clear. He said he did not



Going a' courting: How Robert Holmes a'Court wooed ACC shareholders

mind whether he got all the shares, or just enough to win control. He could have achieved that with one simple offer, even stripping out the added complication of ACC's two classes of shares.

Instead, with panel approval, he chose a two-tier offer which worked as a shut-out bid, which the panel and the City's ultimate

Enabond prices (yields and premiums)

STRAIGHT DEBT	Price	Yield	CONVERTIBLE BONDS	Price	Yield
Alco Standard 9-40	101 1/2	14.09	Alco Standard 9-40	102 1/2	7.62
Alco Standard 9-40	101 1/2	14.09	Alco Standard 9-40	102 1/2	7.62
Alco Standard 9-40	101 1/2	14.09	Alco Standard 9-40	102 1/2	7.62
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Alco Standard 9-40	101 1/2	14.09	Alco Standard 9-40	102 1/2	7.62

Business Editor Latin America: bankers' dilemma

Whatever the outcome of the Falklands crisis, much damage will have been done to the Argentine economy and its already shaky standing in the eyes of international bankers. The episode has thrown off course the attempts by Economy Minister Dr Roberto Alemann to tackle Argentina's 130 per cent inflation rate by chopping back government borrowing and thus the need to print money. The stability of the present junta must also be in doubt and, with it, the will to make the painful readjustments necessary for the economy.

More than anything, though, the Falklands crisis has served to highlight the present economic problems of the debt-ridden Latin American economies and make bankers reassess their lending policies. Some good may come of that.

The dangers of this soon become apparent when borrowers need to roll-over loans or raise fresh ones just to service their debts. Argentina, Brazil and Mexico between them have an estimated gross borrowing requirement of about \$52,000m this year. Even this excludes short-term credits normally rolled-over as a matter of course.

One again, banks reached the stage where despite being heavily exposed to some sovereign borrowers, they may precipitate the very crisis they are seeking to avoid if they cut back on lending. During the 1970s Japanese and then Arab banks helped meet the demand as other banks reached their country limits. But that required confidence in the borrower, and confidence in sovereign borrowers from the Eastern bloc to Latin America has been badly shaken over the past year.

Lending by nine largest US banks (as % of capital at June 1981)

\$000m	% of capital
Brazil	11.5
Mexico	12.6
S. Korea	7.5
Argentina	5.7
Philippines	3.8
Taiwan	4.7
Sub-total	45.7
All non-oil developing countries	64.7

Source: Bankers Trust

WEEKLY LIST OF FIXED-INTEREST STOCKS

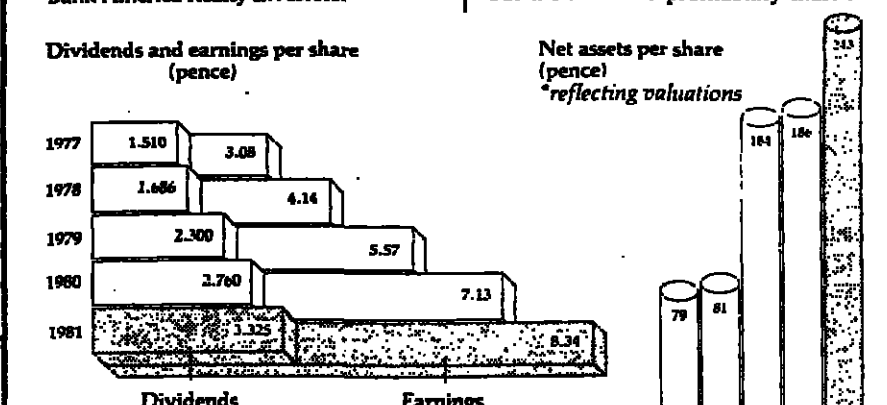
Stock	Price	Yield	Stock	Price	Yield
Alco Standard 9-40	101 1/2	14.09	Alco Standard 9-40	102 1/2	7.62
Alco Standard 9-40	101 1/2	14.09	Alco Standard 9-40	102 1/2	7.62
Alco Standard 9-40	101 1/2	14.09	Alco Standard 9-40	102 1/2	7.62
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Alco Standard 9-40	101 1/2	14.09	Alco Standard 9-40	102 1/2	7.62

Slough Estates predicts a brighter future

Pre-Tax Profits increase 17.8%
Earnings per Share increase 17.0%
Dividends increase 20.0%

One for Four Scrip Issue and forecast of maintained dividend.

For the year ended 31st December 1981, Slough Estates plc increased pre-tax profits by 17.8% from £11,431,000 to £13,467,000 including a profit of £852,000 on the realisation of an investment in Bank America Realty Investors.



This figure was achieved during a year marked by the continuation of the very severe recession and of the high interest rates that have affected the demand for premises in all markets.

The United Kingdom
In the U.K. some 270,000 sq ft of new industrial floor space was constructed — a lower figure than in recent years reflecting the state of the market.

New construction has largely been concentrated in the South of England where demand has remained more buoyant than in other parts of the country.

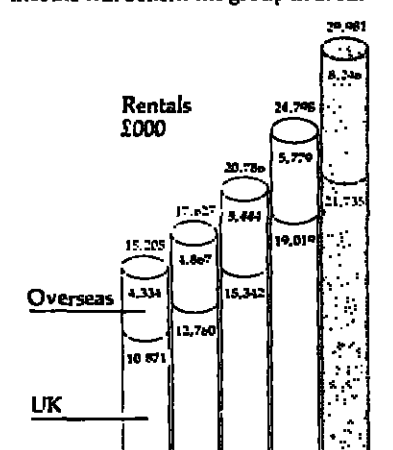
The group holds an inventory of 79 acres of land for future development. Much of this is located in the South East of England and West along the M4 and it is expected that these locations will continue to attract new investment.

The major modernisation of the power station has been completed and from the

been completed with 37% of the accommodation leased.

The Canadian company has had another good year with profits rising by 25%. The 54,000 sq ft office development at Markham is complete and 75% occupied. An additional fifteen acres of land in Toronto has been acquired.

In the United States, the Riverview Plaza is now fully open. The major office project at 33 West Monroe Street, Chicago is complete and full rental income will benefit the group in 1982.



Finance
The group ended the year with £11.5m of cash and with adequate banking facilities available for the current development programme and for the acquisition of new projects.

Prospects
Many aspects of the recession are still with us; despite this there are some positive signs of improvement. The group is represented in locations that will continue to out-perform the average and is well placed to respond to better conditions in the future.

We have the land resources, the expertise and the financial strength. For 1982 improved rental income is expected in the U.K. from reviews, reversions and new projects. Overseas prospects are also improving thanks amongst other things to the leasing of the Brussels office block.

I am confident that subject to no unforeseen circumstances arising we will be reporting a significant rise in pre-tax profits and anticipate increasing the effective distribution by 25%.

NIGEL MOBBES
Chairman.

SLOUGH ESTATES

Helping Britain get back to work

NESTLÉ S.A.,
Cham and Vevey (Switzerland)

THE 115TH ORDINARY GENERAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS is to be held at 3.00 p.m. on Thursday, 13th May 1982, at the "Palais de Beaulieu" LAUSANNE (SWITZERLAND)

AGENDA

1. Approval of the Accounts for 1981 and the Annual Report.
2. Release from responsibility of the Board of Directors and of the Management.
3. Decision regarding the appropriation of the net profit.
4. Elections in accordance with the Articles of Association.

The owners of bearer shares may obtain their cards giving admission to the general meeting (with a proxy) at the Company's Transfer Office in Cham up to Monday 10th May 1982 at noon, at the latest. The cards will be delivered against the statement of a bank that the shares are deposited or upon deposit of the shares in the offices of the Company where they will remain blocked until the day after the general meeting.

The report Nestlé 1981 with the Annual Report of Nestlé S.A. (comprising the Balance Sheet and the Profit and Loss Account with comments, the Auditors' Report and the proposals for the appropriation of profits), is available to the holders of bearer shares as from 29th April, 1982, at the Registered Offices at Cham and Vevey, and as from 3rd May at the Offices of the Paying Agents of the Company.

The holders of registered shares whose names are entered in the Share Register will, within the next few days, receive at their last address communicated to the Company an envelope containing the Notice for the General Meeting, together with a form comprising an application for obtaining the card giving admission to such meeting as well as a proxy. On the other hand, the aforesaid Report will be dispatched a few days later.

The shareholders are requested to address any correspondence concerning the General Meeting to the Transfer Office of the Company at Cham (Switzerland).

The Board of Directors
Cham and Vevey,
26th April 1982

REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU
PORT OF BISSAU

The Government of Guinea-Bissau requested credits and loans from the World Bank, the Kuwait Fund, the OPEC Fund, the Arab Bank for Economic Development of Africa and other co-financiers to finance a port project at Bissau. The proposed project is expected to include:

1. Construction of a new deep water berth of reinforced concrete deck and piles.
2. Repair of the existing commercial berth of reinforced concrete deck and piles.
3. Rehabilitation of five river ports.
4. Provision and installation of navigation aids; and
5. Construction of a building for port apartments and offices in Bissau.

The tender documents are being prepared by the consultants, NEDECO, Amersfoort, PO Box 85, The Netherlands, and are expected to be ready for tendering in July 1982. Contractors with adequate experience in constructing and repairing similar works may send a copy of their prequalification document in English or French to the following address:

The Director General of Transport,
Ministry of Transport and Tourism,
PO Box 306,
Bissau,
Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Prequalification documents should reach the above address before 12 noon on Friday May 28 1982, and should include adequate information on the contractor's nationality, address, telephone and telex numbers, commercial registration, previous experience in port construction and repair, available equipment, financial position and curricula vitae of main staff. Since the repair of the existing reinforced concrete commercial berth is an integral part of the project, unless the contractor is experienced in such repair work, he should associate with another experienced firm to carry out this work. In such case, the prequalification documents for this firm should be attached to those of the main contractor.

The GRA Group plc
(Registered Number 226267 England)

Share Capital

Authorised	Ordinary Shares	Issued and fully paid
£2,500,000	of 5p each	£2,142,626

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the issued ordinary shares of the Company to be re-admitted to the Official List. Dealings are expected to commence on the 30th April, 1982. Particulars of the shares are available in the Extel Statistical Service and copies may be obtained during business hours on any weekday (Saturdays and public holidays excepted) up to and including 7th May, 1982, from:

Baring Brothers & Co., Limited, 8 Bishopsgate, London EC2N 4AE	Rowe & Pitman City Gate House, 39/45 Finsbury Square, London EC2A 1JA
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M. J. H. Nightingale & Co. Limited
27/28 Lowest London EC3R 8EB Telephone 01-621 1212

The Over-the-Counter Market

Company	Change	Price	Dividend	P/E Ratio
1293 Asa Ind Ltd	+2	10.0	7.7	12.9
4226 Airpro Group	73	4.7	6.4	11.6
1168 Airtronic & Rhodes	44	4.3	9.8	3.7
12720 Bardon Hill	+2	9.7	4.3	9.7
1338 CCL 11% Conv Pref	107	+1	15.7	14.7
4798 Debenhams Services	62	+1	6.0	5.0
4111 Frank Horell	76	+1	6.4	8.4
10,979 Frederick Parker	54	—	—	—
356 George Blair	96	—	7.3	7.6
2,616 Isis Conv Pref	109	—	15.7	14.4
2,905 Jackson Group	99	+2	7.0	7.1
15,536 James Burroughs	113	+1	8.7	7.7
2,489 Robert Jenkins	64	—	5.3	5.3
2,485 Scruttons "A"	153	—	10.7	6.7
3,881 Twicken Old	134	—	—	—
2,184 Twicken 15% ULS	80	—	15.0	18.8
3,815 Unifac Holdings	25	—	3.0	12.0
10,124 Walter Alexander	80	+1	6.4	6.4
5,391 W. S. Yates	231	+1	14.5	6.3

Prices now available on Prestel page 48146

From John Blunsden, Imola, Italy, April 25

Only 14 cars began the race following a boycott by the majority of teams from the British-based Formula One Constructors' Association. They were protesting at the disqualification from the Brazilian Grand Prix of Nelson Piquet and Keke

which set the early pace. It held a narrow lead over the two Ferraris until lap 27 when Villeneuve squeezed by. But four laps later, Arnoux regained the lead and remained there until his leaking engine oil ignited spectacularly. His team colleague, Alain Prost, currently the pro-

A high-contrast, black and white photograph of a Formula 1 race. Several cars are visible on a track, with a large 'Kodak' logo in the upper left corner. The image is grainy and has a high-contrast, almost stencil-like appearance.

Pironi in a Ferrari leads a depleted field to win the San Marino Grand Prix

visional leader before he retired at the pits with engine trouble. "I was a bit out of luck for the two British drivers in the race, Derek Warwick's Toleman retiring on the warm-up with an elusive electrical failure, later traced to a faulty battery and Brian Henton's Tyrrell left at the start. However, the ability of Alboreto, Tyrrell's team leader, to keep well within one second each lap of the leaders for much of the race underlines again his own growing status and the improving calibre of his car.

goodwill this team had attracted by dwelling to Imola, to please their Italian sponsor and the crowd, was dissipated overnight by a furious protest by Ken Tyrrell against all the turbo-charged cars including the British Williams. Tyrrell argued that they were in breach of the regulations which only permit mechanically driven superchargers, not exhaust-aided turbo-chargers. As turbo-chargers have been raced for several seasons, it was no surprise that the protest was rejected.

With both Alfa Romeos retiring early the field was reduced

RESULTS: 1, D Pinner (Ferrari), 60 laps 1 hour 36 minutes 38.897 seconds; 116.83 mph; 2, G Videmann (Ferrari), 1 hour 36 minutes 40.500 seconds; 116.78 mph; 3, J. J. Janer (Datsun), 1 hour 37 minutes 46.571 seconds; 4, J. P. Janer (Datsun-Ford), 99 laps; 5, E. Salazar (AT-SFord), 57 laps; 6, T. Fain (Datsun-Ford), 52 laps (unclassified).

WORLD PLACINGS: Drivers — 1, Prost 18, 2, P. de la Rosa 17, 3, Alboreto and Pirelli 10, 4, Rosberg and Watson 6; 7, Riccardo and Villeneuve 6; 9, Patrese, Mansell and Arnoux 5; 10, S. Betsis 4; 11, Agnelli and De Angelis 2; Constructors — 1, Renault and McLaren-Ford 20; 2, Ferrari 18; 4, Williams 14; 5, Tyrrell-Ford 10; 6, Lotus-Ford 6; 7, AT-SFord and Brabham-Ford 4; 8, Datsun-Ford.

By Michael Coleman

Phelps, in particular, must be satisfied with this workout. As a junior he will lead Britain at the world junior championships in London in August and he has met the best seniors during the last five days in Italy.

It was the world champion, Janusz Peciak-Peciak, of Poland, who finally emerged as individual victor with 5,473 points, from Dosimberov, of the Soviet Union, (5,385) and the West Germans' new strong man, Gunter Rehbein (5,381). Rehbein, a junior last year and world silver medal winner, is now out of Phelps' Way.

INDIVIDUAL: 1. Pycek-Peciek (Poland) 5,473; 2. A. Dosimbatov (USSR) 5,385; 3. G. Rehbein (West Germany) 5,381; 10. R. Phelps (GB) 5,264; 18. S. Sowerby (GB) 5,155; 19. M. Munford (GB) 5,155.

TEAMS: 1. West Germany 15,934; 2. Italy 15,857; 3. Sweden 15,696; 4. GB 15,574; 5. Soviet Union 15,415.

**From John Hennessy
Golf Correspondent
Madrid, April 25**

There are no car parks flanking the Puerta de Hierro course, but Ballesteros achieved recovery shots from sand, tree and bush that amounted almost to genius. He was two strokes behind

Sandy Lyle was their third playing companion, only one shot behind Ballesteros, but he destroyed his chances with a crushing eight at the long fifth, where he twice hooked wildly out of bounds, from three strokes behind Cossaces he had drowned

The out-of-bounds at the fifth hole is about 40 yards from the fairway, so that Lyle must have been all of 60 yards off line. He then played a superb six-iron to

A high-contrast, black and white portrait of a woman with dark, curly hair, wearing sunglasses and a dark jacket. She is looking slightly to the left. The image is heavily stylized with a grainy, high-contrast aesthetic.

Something of an eye-opener,
we believe.

ICE HOCKEY

to get back into the game, had removed their young net minder, Hanson, in favour of an extra attacker.

Murrayfield had led 3-2 at the end of the first period, despite a missed penalty from Pennycook.

Dundee Rockets opened the tournament by beating Blackpool Seagulls, but their manager, Tom Stewart, was not impressed.

Nevertheless his side was too good for Blackpool, who went down 16-4. O'Neill, a defenceman enjoying a rare outing at left wing, led the scoring.

The Canadian comeback started when Gretzky picked up a return from Tretyak to score. Less than a minute later, Napier reduced the Soviet lead to only one goal. Lowe tied the game soon after the start of the final period. The next 15 minutes produced a tense duel for the lead. The deadlock was finally broken when Larionov won the puck in a face-off and beat the Canadian goalkeeper. Another goal scored by Fetisov, put the Soviet team in command at 6-4.

NEW ORLEANS		Contestants	Openings
First	Second	First/Second	Openings
<p>138: S Hoch (67, 59); 134: B Shearer (Australia) 68, 71; 132: P Jenkins (New Zealand) 69, 70; 130: J Bannister (Australia) 68, 70; 128: D Huxley (New Zealand) 68, 70; 126: D Barr (Canada) 74, 73; 147: G Jordon (England) 72, 75; 146: J Brown (Great Britain) 72, 74; 145: P Friedman (U.S.) 71, 76.</p>			
<p>NRA (Japan): Japanese Open: final round.</p>			

ATHLETICS

OSLO: 10 kilometer road race: 1, E Dahl (England), 36:52.4; 2, J. Assevi; 3, O Dahl (Norway); 22:01; 3, K. Johnson (Sweden); 23:04; 4, P. Enderberg (England); 23:09.5; 5, J. S. Brown (England); 23:15.2; 6, S. Sayers (England); 29:22; Team: 1, England 10pts; 2, Norway 15; 3, Denmark 23.

the 1990s, the number of people in the United States who are 65 years of age or older has increased by 50 percent, and the number of people 75 years of age or older has increased by 100 percent. The number of people 85 years of age or older has increased by 200 percent. The number of people 95 years of age or older has increased by 400 percent. The number of people 100 years of age or older has increased by 1,000 percent. The number of people 105 years of age or older has increased by 2,000 percent. The number of people 110 years of age or older has increased by 4,000 percent. The number of people 115 years of age or older has increased by 8,000 percent. The number of people 120 years of age or older has increased by 16,000 percent. The number of people 125 years of age or older has increased by 32,000 percent. The number of people 130 years of age or older has increased by 64,000 percent. The number of people 135 years of age or older has increased by 128,000 percent. The number of people 140 years of age or older has increased by 256,000 percent. The number of people 145 years of age or older has increased by 512,000 percent. The number of people 150 years of age or older has increased by 1,024,000 percent. The number of people 155 years of age or older has increased by 2,048,000 percent. The number of people 160 years of age or older has increased by 4,096,000 percent. The number of people 165 years of age or older has increased by 8,192,000 percent. The number of people 170 years of age or older has increased by 16,384,000 percent. The number of people 175 years of age or older has increased by 32,768,000 percent. The number of people 180 years of age or older has increased by 65,536,000 percent. The number of people 185 years of age or older has increased by 131,072,000 percent. The number of people 190 years of age or older has increased by 262,144,000 percent. The number of people 195 years of age or older has increased by 524,288,000 percent. The number of people 200 years of age or older has increased by 1,048,576,000 percent. The number of people 205 years of age or older has increased by 2,097,152,000 percent. The number of people 210 years of age or older has increased by 4,194,304,000 percent. The number of people 215 years of age or older has increased by 8,388,608,000 percent. The number of people 220 years of age or older has increased by 16,777,216,000 percent. The number of people 225 years of age or older has increased by 33,554,432,000 percent. The number of people 230 years of age or older has increased by 67,108,864,000 percent. The number of people 235 years of age or older has increased by 134,217,728,000 percent. The number of people 240 years of age or older has increased by 268,435,456,000 percent. The number of people 245 years of age or older has increased by 536,870,912,000 percent. The number of people 250 years of age or older has increased by 1,073,741,824,000 percent. The number of people 255 years of age or older has increased by 2,147,483,648,000 percent. The number of people 260 years of age or older has increased by 4,294,967,296,000 percent. The number of people 265 years of age or older has increased by 8,589,934,592,000 percent. The number of people 270 years of age or older has increased by 17,179,869,184,000 percent. The number of people 275 years of age or older has increased by 34,359,738,368,000 percent. The number of people 280 years of age or older has increased by 68,719,476,736,000 percent. The number of people 285 years of age or older has increased by 137,438,953,472,000 percent. The number of people 290 years of age or older has increased by 274,877,906,944,000 percent. The number of people 295 years of age or older has increased by 549,755,813,888,000 percent. The number of people 300 years of age or older has increased by 1,099,511,627,776,000 percent. The number of people 305 years of age or older has increased by 2,199,023,255,552,000 percent. The number of people 310 years of age or older has increased by 4,398,046,511,104,000 percent. The number of people 315 years of age or older has increased by 8,796,093,022,208,000 percent. The number of people 320 years of age or older has increased by 17,592,186,044,416,000 percent. The number of people 325 years of age or older has increased by 35,184,372,088,832,000 percent. The number of people 330 years of age or older has increased by 70,368,744,177,664,000 percent. The number of people 335 years of age or older has increased by 140,737,488,355,328,000 percent. The number of people 340 years of age or older has increased by 281,474,976,710,656,000 percent. The number of people 345 years of age or older has increased by 562,949,953,421,312,000 percent. The number of people 350 years of age or older has increased by 1,125,899,906,842,624,000 percent. The number of people 355 years of age or older has increased by 2,251,799,813,685,248,000 percent. The number of people 360 years of age or older has increased by 4,503,599,627,370,496,000 percent. The number of people 365 years of age or older has increased by 9,007,199,254,740,992,000 percent. The number of people 370 years of age or older has increased by 18,014,398,509,481,984,000 percent. The number of people 375 years of age or older has increased by 36,028,797,018,963,968,000 percent. The number of people 380 years of age or older has increased by 72,057,594,037,927,936,000 percent. The number of people 385 years of age or older has increased by 144,115,188,075,855,872,000 percent. The number of people 390 years of age or older has increased by 288,230,376,151,711,744,000 percent. The number of people 395 years of age or older has increased by 576,460,752,303,423,488,000 percent. 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The number of people 490 years of age or older has increased by 302,231,454,903,657,293,676,544,000 percent. The number of people 495 years of age or older has increased by 604,462,909,807,314,587,353,088,000 percent. The number of people 500 years of age or older has increased by 1,208,925,819,614,629,174,706,176,000 percent. The number of people 505 years of age or older has increased by 2,417,851,639,229,258,349,412,352,000 percent. The number of people 510 years of age or older has increased by 4,835,703,278,458,516,698,824,704,000 percent. The number of people 515 years of age or older has increased by 9,671,406,556,917,033,397,649,408,000 percent. The number of people 520 years of age or older has increased by 19,342,813,113,834,066,795,298,816,000 percent. The number of people 525 years of age or older has increased by 38,685,626,227,668,133,590,597,632,000 percent. The number of people 530 years of age or older has increased by 77,371,252,455,336,267,181,195,264,000 percent. 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the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 200 million to 400 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.

Commercial Property / Baron Phillips

The surprise from the Pru

The sale by the Prudential Assurance Company of its freehold interest in Central Cross, the 220,000 sq ft office building in London's Tottenham Court Road, is a remarkable event in the capital's property market and a milestone in the block's 15 year chequered history.

Prudential's decision to put the building on the market for an asking price of £45m is surprising, the giant insurance group, with £2,500m worth of property, is not known for selling its assets. This is the largest single sale ever made by the Prudential in its century-long involvement in property investment and Central Cross is the sixth biggest building owned by the Prudential's extensive assets.

Mr Peter Green, the group's joint chief surveyor, had alleged fears that such a substantial sale indicates a disengagement with long-term property investment. He said: "Through this is undoubtedly a substantial sale, in the context of total property investments it represents no more than a fine tuning of the portfolio."

But Mr Green has made it clear that while the Prudential has been a great landlord of buildings and investments in the past, he wants to dispose of more assets.

Over the last 24 years the Prudential has disposed of about £45m worth of property with more than half of that sold in 1981. Considering the overall size of the portfolio, sales of this level are small beer and the figures are diluted even further when it is realised that about £10m accounts for a number of mansion flat blocks which have been acquired by tenants.

Mr Green will not reveal the size of the present disposal programme, but he is clearly keen to cash in on the property which can be used either for upgrading existing properties or for development.

Central Cross has had a troubled and colourful history. The site was acquired about 15 years ago by the Prudential from the Gort Estate and was originally developed in conjunction with EMI as the music and records group's new headquarters. But financial troubles at EMI and the subsequent takeover by Thorn, to form Thorn EMI, stopped plans to use the building.

Under the development agreement, EMI leased the entire building for 35 years from June 1979, with a provision to extend the lease to a maximum of 140 years.

years. Thorn EMI now pays £2.5m subject to five yearly rent reviews.

All the shops in Central Cross have been sub-let and tenants found for almost all the offices. Most of the office space has been leased by two principal tenants, Amoco and Amerasia, both oil companies. Thorn-EMI itself occupies only a tiny proportion of the offices.

The Prudential believes it will encounter little difficulty in finding a buyer for the block. An early approach was made some months ago by agents representing foreign interests, probably Middle Eastern, although Mr Green admits no serious discussions took place.

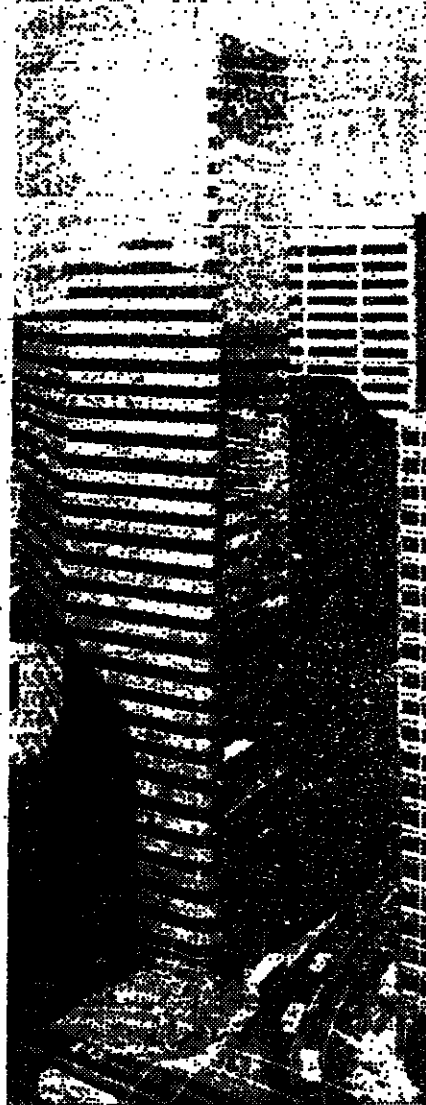
For some time investment managers for the main funds have been complaining that there are few major prime buildings on the market. A building the size of Central Cross is likely to be bought by a large pension fund or insurance group looking for major property investments.

The overall rent for the building that Thorn-EMI is paying is just under £10,000 a sq ft. At today's market rent the 150,000 sq ft offices would yield £2.7m a year, taking the total rent roll to more than £3m. As the rent review is about two years away any buyer of the building may consider it worthwhile to negotiate a buy out of Thorn-EMI's interest and take full advantage of the income stream.

Apart from Central Cross the Prudential is holding talks about the future of the Adelphi Building at Charing Cross. The subject of a major refurbishment programme likely to cost around £31m the Adelphi is thought to have a market value of about £60m. Mr Green confirmed that no agreement to sell has been reached although discussions are under way with the British subsidiary of Phillips Petroleum which wants to use the 300,000 sq ft block as a new headquarters building.

Though the Prudential has embarked on a major pruning exercise it continues to be busy with development. In central London alone where 45 per cent of its massive portfolio is concentrated, it is in the middle of a £100m development programme. Outside of the capital a further £100m is being channelled into a variety of schemes including about 1.1m sq ft of industrial space and 600,000 sq ft of office buildings.

While this substantial programme is under way, Mr Green pointed out that the Prudential's eyes are not closed to acquiring prime ready-made investments as the opportunities arise.



Towering purchase

More than £100m (about £56.5m) has been paid for the 600,000 sq ft Amoco Tower office building in Denver, Colorado. The buyers are a joint venture company formed by the Aetna Life and Casualty and Finsbury Colorado Properties, a subsidiary of BP Pension Trust, who have acquired the 36-storey block from a subsidiary of Reliance Development Inc. Debenham, Tewson & Chinnocks' New York office acted for BP.

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Cut price farms takeover plan by Labour

By Anthony Bevins, Political Correspondent

The Labour Party is considering a policy for the nationalization of all tenanted farmland with compensation paid on the basis of agricultural rather than market value.

A second draft chapter on food and agriculture, fisheries and forestry policy, to be considered for inclusion in Labour's Programme 1982, says that public ownership of land has always been an integral part of Labour philosophy.

"Land ownership in this country can bring with it inestimable and unjustifiable power and influence for a tiny minority of our citizens — a minority whose interests are frequently in direct conflict with the good of the community," the paper says.

"Only through the public ownership and control of land will we be able to eliminate that power and influence."

But the document states that the issue is "not simply a question of dogma", nationalization will also help to create a better, more economic farming structure.

"The present structure of farms is the result of a series of buying and selling — not to mention outright confiscation."

"No attempt has ever been made, over a large area, to create sound economic units suitable for varying conditions. Thousands of farms are made up of two or more quite separate parcels of land. Indeed, areas can be cited where well over half the holdings are in this category."

The party executive's food and agriculture sub-committee proposed the setting-up of a rural land authority, on the lines of a nationalized industry board, which would administer the state's farmland through area centres responsible for day-to-day estate management.

The sub-committee does not, however, make a firm recommendation on nationalization priority.

One formula hints at procrastination, saying: "The acute bringing into public ownership of agricultural land will clearly not be an easy process." Further consideration is suggested.

The alternative formula is more positive. It says: "We

believe that it is vital that the next Labour government moves quickly to provide a large publicly-owned sector of farmland."

"This would be achieved largely through the acquisition of the existing tenanted estates, but additional land would be acquired where its purchase created more rational boundaries for the national estate."

"Farming units would also be acquired where owners chose to relinquish the ownership of land instead of paying tax."

The paper says the question of compensation "is perhaps the most difficult we have to tackle in this area of policy."

It is said that the Labour Party did not embrace a policy of confiscation, "despite the fact that many of the present landlords derive their ownership from compensation by their predecessors."

Nevertheless, compensation could not be paid on the basis of current market values, but would be based on the lower, agricultural value.

The agricultural paper is one of a number of policy documents to be submitted to a special meeting of Labour's national executive on May 19. The executive will finalize the draft of Labour's programme 1982, expected to run to about 200 printed pages, and that document will be presented to the party conference at Blackpool in the autumn.

Call for animal ban, page 2

Boy trapped in flue

Marc Barrie, aged six, of Irvine, Ayrshire, spent three hours trapped in a narrow flue near the top of a 20-foot chimney on a building site on Saturday before police and firemen freed him.

Search operation

A kidney transplant operation was carried out on a boy, at the Royal Hospital in Liverpool, on Saturday, after a city-wide search for the patient. John Kendrick, aged 14, was shopping, when a suitable kidney became available.

33 killed in Italian antiques fair fire

Todi, Italy April 25 — A flash fire started by an explosion killed at least 33 people and injured scores of others attending an antiques exhibition at a 16th century country house 78 miles northwest of Rome.

At least 40 of the estimated 200 people at the exhibition jumped from the top floor of the building on to a lorry, some of them injuring themselves seriously.

Fire fighters said they were still counting the victims and believed that the death toll could go as high as 45. No foreigners were believed to be among the dead or injured.

Signor Paolo Pianigiani, a reporter from the local radio station across the road said: "There was a tremendous explosion which shook the entire area. For a minute we thought it was an earthquake. Then we saw smoke, fire and there was screaming."

"Fire spread quickly and the heat was so intense... I saw a bronze statue literally melt," he said.

Police officials said the fire was touched off by an explosion, possibly caused by a gas leak, at a bar on the third floor.

The fire spread quickly because of the inflammability of the paintings, tapestries and other art objects in the building. The initial damage estimate from local officials was more than 1,000 million lire (£560,000). The injured were taken to hospitals in Perugia and at least six others were flown to two police helicopters to a centre in Rome for treatment.

Signor Giuseppe Ambricci, a civil defence official, said there were no fire engines in Todi, a town of 18,000 people when the fire broke out at 11am.

"Three fire engines had to come from Perugia, 45 kilometers away, and more than 40 minutes elapsed before the rescue effort got under way," he said.

The blaze was brought under control nearly four hours later, with the aid of helicopters spraying water on to the building.

There was no immediate explanation why there were no fire engines on duty.

Thirty-one bodies were pulled out of the debris and taken to a church near by for identification. Two people died later in hospital.



Blackbirds with a difference

Two albino blackbirds which fell out of their nest are being helped to survive by a girl aged eight.

Donna-Ana Wells (above), of King's Road, Gorleston, Norfolk, helps her father, Mr James Wells, to feed them with worms, bread and milk, a task that has to be repeated every 30 minutes between 5 am and midnight.

Mr Wells, a bird lover, fears that the three-week old birds' chances of survival are slight if released too soon. But he is also considering building an aviary in his back garden where they can continue their sheltered existence.

The Norfolk and Suffolk Wildlife Trust has been giving advice to Mr Wells, who is a catering manager for North Sea oil rigs, recovering from a back injury.

Union blacks task force war film

Continued from page 1

There has been a dispute about the privatization of film production by the COL. This work has been put out to private companies and 27 of our members have been made redundant. We opposed that. This blacking has been extended to all government film material. We were approached by the Navy on the grounds that this was a national emergency, and would find a way round the blacking. Our committee said yes, if they sit and negotiate. This they refused to do.

Work on about 40 government films has been disrupted by the technicians' action, including a feature on Britain's nuclear deterrent. The Ministry of Defence could not confirm or deny last night whether the blacking of Falklands Islands film was hampering the information war.

A different front, unions have welcomed the ministry's postponement "for a short period" of immediate planned redundancies at Portsmouth and Chatham dockyard. Under current plans, 4,300 jobs are due to go this year. But, while the redundancy policy is based "remains valid" the ministry said: "When the dust has settled, we will be considering whether there are any lessons to be learned from the Falklands crisis, to see whether any adjustments may be necessary within our overall plans."

Argentine Annie sends her thanks

The Argentine equivalent of Tokyo Rose, who has been broadcasting to the British task force, yesterday put over a personal message to a businessman in Britain who first picked up her propaganda talk last week.

The woman, who calls herself Liberty, told 73-year-old Mr John Hurn over his shortwave radio: "Dear John Hurn, I will play some music for you while you get your tape recorder ready."

She played a Beatles tune and then went on: "I am glad you received the programme and I hope you find it interesting."

She referred to the helicopter crash and then played some more music.

She carried on with the usual propaganda broadcast, accusing Britain of attacking a friendly country and then addressed Mr Hurn, saying she hoped he had enjoyed listening to her.

Israelis weep as flag is lowered in Sinai

From Christopher Walker, Sharm el Sheikh, April 25

Scores of male and female Israeli soldiers wept openly, and sometimes uncontrollably, today as the Star of David was lowered for the last time over Sinai, the desert peninsula conquered in 1967 and subsequently transformed by more than 250,000 of Israeli investment.

Soon after the emotional ceremony ended, a slow-moving convoy of coaches, army vehicles and lorries began to make the last journey northwards to meet the deadline for the final withdrawal which marks the completion of the first stage in the peace process begun at Camp David.

The Hebrew posters affixed to the front of almost every vehicle told their own story about the feelings of most Israelis over the loss of the Sinai. "We did not retreat. We gave it up for peace," said one. Another bore the dignified message: "With pain, pride and hope we say goodbye to Sinai". More simplistic was a third which stated: "Sharm, we love you".

As the departing troops drove through this strategic Red Sea port, the number of Israeli outnumbers for the first time in almost 15 years. The few foreign journalists permitted into the area were constantly greeted from the sides of the road by the new arrivals with enthusiastic waves and cries of "Welcome to Egypt".

Already the Egyptians have taken over the Marina Hotel at nearby Naama Bay, as well as many of the 500 white stucco flats which jut out on a spectacular promontory overlooking the sea.

For the most part, the final withdrawal was handled with the maximum of emotion and the minimum of ill feeling.

The Israeli soldiers and officers I spoke to mirrored views expressed by many civilians in the country, that

the withdrawal, and indeed the whole peace treaty with Egypt, was a gamble which had to be risked. But none could disguise their deep grief.

The mood was perhaps best summed up during a dinner given to the remaining troops last night by Brigadier-General Aharon, commander of the region. "My son is 15 and in three years he will join the army," he told his men. "Then he is sure to ask whether people of my generation did everything that we could to see we do not have another war. I want to be able to look him straight in the face with a clear eye and say: 'Yes'."

□ Tel Aviv: The Israeli convoy took along some 200 civilian last-ditch opponents of the peace treaty and of the withdrawal but it was not clear they had them all (Moshe Brilliant writes).

The Stop the Withdrawal Movement claimed some of its activists were still hiding in the ghost settlements.

Leaders of the militants announced today they planned to continue their struggle for the recovery of Sinai as a political party or in some other form to be determined later. Their plan was ridiculed by Dr Yehuda Ben-Meir, Deputy Minister for Foreign Affairs, who is a leader of the National Religious Party and a former supporter of the militants. He said the recovery of Sinai would require another war against Egypt and 99 per cent of the people were against this.

Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, said the evacuation was the hardest, most painful, most complex and most delicate mission ever imposed on an Israeli minister.

Egypt no longer in black book, page 4

Leading article, page 9

Sadat dream fulfilled

Cairo, April 25 — President Mubarak put a wreath on the tomb of his predecessor, Anwar Sadat today to mark the fulfilment of the assassinated leader's dream of the return of Egyptian sovereignty to Sinai.

The ceremony at the tomb, a few yards from the spot where President Sadat was assassinated on October 6 last year was the first of a series of low-key observances to mark Israel's withdrawal from the peninsula after 15 years of occupation.

Even as the ceremonies were taking place, it was still unknown how the last dispute over the Egyptian-Israeli border would be resolved. American, Egyptian and Israeli negotiators were to meet to discuss a formula to reach a settlement over Tabá, a 1,000-square yard area on the Gulf of Aqaba coast south-west of the Israeli port of Eilat.

A meeting in Cairo late last night ended without progress, officials said — AP.

THE TIMES INFORMATION SERVICE

Today's events

Royal engagements
Princess Margaret attends the Royal Caledonian Ball at Grosvenor House Hotel, 9.35

New Exhibitions
The Merseyside Guild of Porters: an exhibition of hand built and wheel thrown pottery and ceramics. Atkinson Art Gallery, Lord Street, Southport; Mon to Fri 10 to 5, Thurs and Sat 10 to 5; (until May 22).
Sculptures by Anthony Caro, Huddersfield Art Gallery, Mon to

Fri 10 to 6, Sat 10 to 4; (until May 23).

Images for Disarmament: photo montages by Peter Kennard, Phoenix Arts, Newark Street, Leicester; Mon to Sat 10 to 6; (until May 16).

RSA Annual Exhibition, Royal Scottish Academy, Edinburgh; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5; (until May 25).
Paintings by André Bicat and carved and pierced porcelain by Maggie Barnes and others. Baines Gallery, 13 Station Road, Rensley-on-Thames, Oxfordshire; Mon to Sat 10 to 5.30, closed Wed and Sun; (until May 20).

Screenprints by three artists. Gallery 2, Bolton Museum and Art Gallery, Le Mans Crescent, Bolton, Lancashire; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 5, closed Wed and Sun; (until May 20).

Landscapes: photographs by Oswald Jones, Canterbury Cathedral; daily until 7; (until May 15).

Worktown: drawings by Falcon Hildred of industrial revolution towns; Industrial Museum, Moor-side Road, Bradford; Tues to Sat 10 to 5; (until June 5).
Waterways Exhibition. Town Hall, Newbury, Berkshire; 5 to 5.30, 11 to 4 Mon to Fri (until May 3).

India Observed, Library Gallery, 14, Victoria Road, Albert Museum; Mon-Sat 10 to 5.45, Sun 2.30 to 5.45, closed Fri from today until July 4.

Exhibitions in progress
Art of the book in India. British Library, Great Russell Street, WC1; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1 (until May 8).

Drawings and paintings by Tony Rickaby and Peter Saunders. Air Gallery, 6 and 8 Rosebery Avenue, EC1; Mon-Fri 11 to 6, Sat 11 to 2, closed Sun (until May 13).

Sculpture by Robert Cronin at Gimpel & Sons, 20, Davies Street, W1; Mon to Fri 9.30 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1 (until May 8).

Paintings based primarily on Welsh landscapes by Tom Nash. Gallery 10, Grosvenor Street, W1; Mon to Fri 10 to 5.30, Sat 10 to 1, closed Sundays (until May 4).

The Gloucester Railway Carriage and Wagon Company since 1860. Gloucester Folk Museum, 99-103 Westgate Street; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 10.30 to 5. (until May 29).

Watercolours by Stephen Ouler of court houses built between 1824 and 1966; a retrospective photographic exhibition of work by Neil Newton. Exhibition of contemporary prints by leading Canadian artists; all at Guildford House Gallery, 155 High Street, Guildford, Surrey; Mon to Sat 10.30 to 5. (until May 31).

Out of the shadows, contemporary Irish photography; Ulster Museum, Botanic Gardens, Belfast; Mon to Sat 10 to 5, Sun 2 to 5, closed Fridays. (until May 31).

Music
Humphrey Lyttelton in concert, Castle Park Leisure Centre, Bangor, Northern Ireland.

Walks
London's ghosts, alleys and oddities, guided by E. Embankment Underground, 7.30.
With Shakespeare and Dickens in Southwark, meet Borough Underground, 10.30.

Parliament today
Commons (2.30): Finance Bill, committee, second day. Lords (2.30): Shops Bill, third reading. Copyright Act, 1956 (Amendment) Bill, third reading. Debate on EEC competition practice and debate on A320 Airbus.

Discount stamps
Stamps at a discount go on sale this week when the Post Office begins to distribute coupons giving a 15p reduction on a book of 10 first or second class stamps. The "15p off" offer, a reduction of about 10 per cent on a book of stamps, ends on May 31.

The pound

	Bank	Buy	Sell
Australia \$	1.75	1.67	
Austria Sch	31.35	29.35	
Belgium Fr	91.25	86.25	
Canada \$	2.24	2.15	
Denmark Kr	14.99	14.24	
Ireland P	1.26	1.21	
France F	11.53	10.93	
Germany DM	4.43	4.18	
Greece Dr	115.50	108.50	
Hong Kong \$	10.70	10.10	
Italy Lir	2395.00	2295.00	
Japan Yen	456.00	430.00	
Netherlands G	4.91	4.65	
Norway Kr	11.25	10.65	
Portugal Esc	133.00	126.00	
South Africa Rd	2.25	2.08	
Spain Ptas	192.00	182.00	
Sweden Kr	10.96	10.36	
Switzerland Fr	3.66	3.44	
USA \$	1.83	1.76	
Yugoslavia Dnr	98.00	92.00	

Lugosia: The FT Index closed down 1.97 at 567.1 on Friday.
New York: The Dow Jones industrial average closed at 862.16, up 9.04.

Nature notes

More summer visitors are arriving from Africa. Garden warblers sing quietly in woods and parks; hedge warblers are building their big ragged bubbling song in ditchside hedges. House martins wheel round the eaves again. The first sparrow migrants to start nesting are the chaffinches. They are easy to notice, since they call constantly as they approach the branches where they are building, unlike the willow warblers, which have an almost identical alarm call, but only use it when feeding their young. Starlings are building their big ragged bubbling song in ditchside hedges. House martins wheel round the eaves again. The first sparrow migrants to start nesting are the chaffinches. They are easy to notice, since they call constantly as they approach the branches where they are building, unlike the willow warblers, which have an almost identical alarm call, but only use it when feeding their young. Starlings are building their big ragged bubbling song in ditchside hedges. 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